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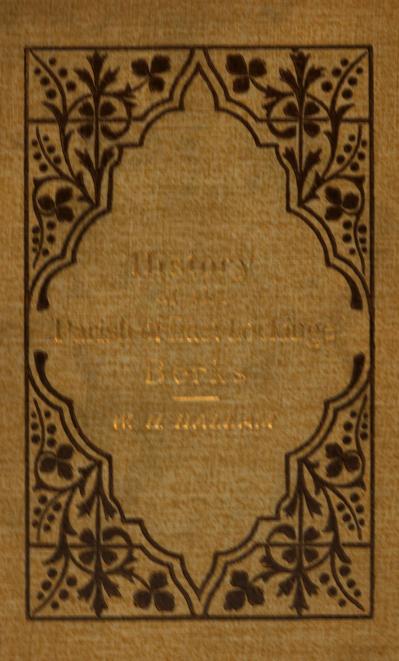
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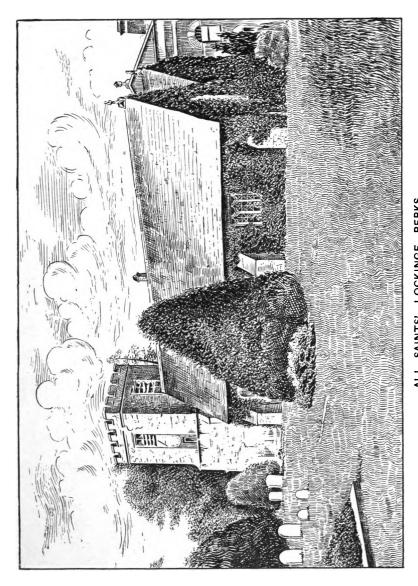
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## HISTORY

OF THE

# Parish of East Lockinge, Berks,

BY

W. H. HALLAM.



#### LONDON:

C. A. BARTLETT & Co., 22 & 23 WARWICK LANE, E.C.

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#### PREFACE.

The following notes on the "History of East Lockinge," were collected for the most part some ten to fifteen years ago. They are now published in the hope that they may be found interesting to the local resident.

For the descriptive account of the Pictures, &c., in the Mansion I am indebted to Lady Wantage.

My thanks are also due to the Rev. J. G. Cornish, Rector, for so readily allowing access to the Parish Registers.

W. H. H.

Kent Road, Swindon, 1899.

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#### THE PARISH

OF

## EAST LOCKINGE, BERKS.

#### CHAPTER I.

#### NATURAL FEATURES.

E AST LOCKINGE is a Village in North Berks, lying two-and-a-half miles eastward of Wantage, in which Hundred it is situated. Its outline is long, and irregular, but narrow throughout. In length it measures five miles, while its breadth nowhere exceeds one mile, and in some portions contracts to little more than a furlong.

Its circumference measures about 14½ miles, exclusive of the outlying hamlet of Ginge. The present acreage of the Parish is given as 2,822 acres, including the tythings of Betterton and West Ginge, and the rateable value £3,471.\*

Of the Natural Features of the Parish it may be enough to say, that its general surface is a gradual rise from the North to the South, broken by a depression about midway, in which the village itself is situated. The Ordnance Survey gives the Levels as 219 feet above the Sea Level at the Northern extremity, rising to 373 feet where the Portway crosses the Parish, marked by a plantation of trees which

<sup>\*</sup> Kelly's Directory of Berks.

form a conspicuous landmark in the vale, and are known as "Lockinge Clump," and locally as the "Land of Trees" or the "Waggon and Horses," which they resemble in shape.

From this point the land falls away until the village is reached, 329 feet above sea level, and then again rises gradually till the Parish terminates in the Chalk Downs of the Cuckhamsley Hills where it attains an elevation of 740 feet.

The soil is varied, consisting of loam and clay in the lower parts; chalk loam and greensand being met with before it reaches the marl and limestone on which the Village stands, while in the Downs it is wholly composed of chalk of which that range of hills consists.

In the Geological Section of the G. W. Railway, that portion in Lockinge Parish is described as composed of sand and from two to eight feet of chalk marl and greensand, covering blue clay.

The Railway here has a rise of eight feet per mile.

The time when these lowlands were part of the vast Eocene sea, which was slowly depositing the beds of gault clay and greensand above which the Down lands stood as Islands, or later still when it was a thick forest, impenetrable, both from the thick masses of vegetation, and the swamps which they concealed, is too remote to be included as part of this History and is beyond the scope of the present writer. The first human inhabitants who lived here, would be those who descended into the valleys from the higher and dryer lands; and of these no traces remain except their roads, to an account of which, another chapter is devoted.

#### CHAPTER II.

#### THE MANORS OF EAST LOCKINGE, THEIR HISTORY AND DESCENT.

THE Parish contains three Manors; all of ancient date and each mentioned in "Doomsday Book."

The absence of coins (in any large numbers), pavements, and such like remains, lead us to infer that our Parish was not occupied by the Romans. The name Lockinge itself is Saxon and may be derived from Hlaw, a hill, and ing, a meadow, common, or close; or again from Loki the Norse god of mischief, or perhaps from the name of the first chief who settled here. In Rowden's map of Berkshire 16— the name is given as Long or Lower Ginge, as if suggesting that derivation; but the ancient names of these two places are too widely different to be connected in this manner. Mr. Kemble in his work "The Saxons in England," has collected the names of nearly 1400 English parishes ending in "ing" and compounds of it, as Basingstoke, Uffington, etc.

The whole of this district was from an early period in Saxon History, the possession of the Kings of Wessex. Cenwalh, in 648 A.D., gave to his nephew Cuthred (son of Cwichlem, from whom Cwichlemslaw or Scutchamore Knob is derived) the immense tract of 300,000 acres on the Berkshire Hills.

The earliest mention by name of our Parish however is a.D. 868, when Queen Adelswith or Ealhswyth, the daughter

of Ethelred, surnamed the Mickle, or big, Alderman of the Gainas in Lincolnshire, granted it to the Abbot and Abbey of Abingdon.\*

The boundaries of the Parish are thus described in the Charter.

"Æn westeweardun and on southeweardun Sceldmere, thonne of Sceldmere on Smalanweg, and thonne on gemarbeorg; and of gemarberge on weorth-welle; of werth-welle feower æcras be northan Lakinge."

Amongst the witnesses to the gift, and who sign the Charter are the names of the King, Bishop, four Dukes, and ten others.

The next mention of Lockinge is in the "Doomsday Book," compiled A.D. 1085—1086. Its name was now corrupted from Lakinge to Lachinges, being described as follows.

#### IN WANTING HUNDRED.

The Abbey itself holds Lachinges, and held it in King Edward's time. It then answered for ten hides, now for six hides and one virgate. There is land to eight ploughs. There is one plough in the demesne, and eight villanes and 11 cottagers with four ploughs. There are three bondsmen; and a mill of the value of 30 pence, and 34 acres of meadow.

Gilbert holds one hide of this land of the Abbot, and one Church with half a hide; and he has one plough there with one villane. The whole was in King Edward's time worth  $\pounds 9$ , now, the demesne of the Abbey is worth  $\pounds 7$  and Gilbert's holding is worth 36 shillings.

The Manor and Parish of East Lockinge appear to have

<sup>\*</sup> Chron. Mon. de Abingdon.

been always held together in one estate, and never divided and sold to different proprietors. The Abbot of the great Abbey at Abingdon was Lord of 29 other manors in Berkshire, besides Lockinge.

The Abbey probably farmed most of the land, then under cultivation. The profits with other rents were devoted to charitable and religious purposes, and to keep their Abbey Church and Buildings in repair. Other portions of the land were let out to tenants in much the same way as in modern times. The situation of the Village was no doubt much the same when the Conqueror's surveyors visited it, as it was 40 years ago, before part of it was re-built on another site.

The Church, then a rude building consisting only of chancel and nave, occupied the same site as now. In a sheltered position, the wattle and daub huts of the poor Saxons were built, conveniently placed just above the little brook from which they were supplied with water, while their Priest dwelt in a larger building between that and the Church, where the old Parsonage house stood until 100 years ago. The Rector, did not then, receive a stipend, but held so much land as his Living; 50 acres; which was reckoned to be worth 36 shillings a year, besides which, he appears to have rented and farmed another hide, equal to 100 or 120 acres. It is an interesting fact that even now there is land belonging to the Rector for the time being, which is probably the same as we thus read of more than 800 years ago.

Of the population then returned, as consisting of 22 adults or the male heads of families, the 11 described as cottagers were freemen, having a cottage and small holding of land, the rent of which they paid by working so many days in the

year, or week, on the land which the Abbey cultivated for their own profit.

The Villanes must not be confounded with the villain of to-day. The word in "Doomsday Book" had a quite different signification and represented the farm labourer. They performed practically the same services at this time for kind, as the agricultural labourer performs on a farm at the present day for a weekly wage.\* These eight villanes were probably employed under the Abbot.

The three bondsmen were slaves.

Most of the land in the Parish thus rented or occupied was ploughed and cultivated, only 34 acres being meadow or pasture; but a large portion, especially the low parts, where the canal and railway now run was still a marsh and as yet fit for little agriculture. The ancient name of this portion is still retained in the name Pinmarsh and sufficiently proves its character. A great deal of the land was no doubt still thickly wooded.

The Mill, mentioned in the survey, was driven by a water wheel. It belonged to the Lord of the Manor. The 30 pence it was valued at refers to the income derived from it by grinding their tenants' corn. Not a trace of this mill has existed for many years; its very existence even is forgotten, but the probable site was at a fall in the water course, not far from the Parish Church, between the old village and Betterton.

The early tenants rapidly extended their holdings, after the Conquest, by bringing more of the land under cultivation.

Between 1087 and 1100, Robert, the son of Hubert, probably one of the Conqueror's followers, is mentioned as

<sup>\*</sup>Doomsday Book, by W. A. G. Birch.

Lord of Lachinge; and a few years later another family who had perhaps been settled here some time, assumed the name of the parish as a surname. In 1166, Henry de Lachinges was holding under the Abbey nearly 100 acres; and in 1258 John de Lachinges, a descendant, was occupying the same holding; while as early as 1189 Geralmus de Curzon, of Lachinge, is mentioned as a great benefactor to the Abbey at Abingdon.

Others of William's Normans began to settle here too. In the reign of Henry III, 1227-1272, the names of Adam Herebert, his brother Ralph, Robert le Vavasur, and Reginald Fitz-Henry, are returned as renting together 100 or 120 acres from the Abbey. The first-named may have been descendants of the above mentioned Robert, the son of Hubert.

Richardus Germun was also an early holder of lands here, and the family of Stubville, alias Latton, were occupiers of land in East and West Lockinge some time before the Reformation.

Later still the families of Aldworth and Coxedd appear to have been tenants here, the latter family having possessions for some years after the reign of Henry VIII. Henry Coxhedd was a Churchwarden in 1552.

Of these early tenants no trace or remembrance now remain with the exception of a field-name in the village still known as German's, which, we may be almost sure, was part of the land he farmed. In Wantage Parish a district of Down's land called Latten Down preserves the name of its former possessor.

All these years the life of the village had been uneventful and quiet under the rule of the Abbots. The inhabitants

had passed their existence undisturbed by the changes of monarchy and government, which, at different periods, had convulsed the large cities and towns, and those villages where dwelt the powerful Nobles and military Knights who took part in the management of the affairs of the kingdom. So it lasted until Henry VIII. began to cast covetous eyes upon the Monasteries, because of their large possessions, and the Reformation was commenced, which ended, so far as the Abbey at Abingdon was concerned, by the Abbot Rowland Pentecost on the 9th February, 1538, surrendering his charge to the King, and Lockinge, after a period of 670 years, passed into the hands of others. In the "King's Book," which was compiled in the 30th year of his reign, the value of the Abbey Lands at Lockinge were given as follows:—

		£	s.	d.	
Redd 'lib et east Ten!	•••	13	I	10	
Terv. Pquis in Ardyngton	•••	I	6	8	
Pastur in Pynkmershe	•••	4	13	4	
Firma Scit' Man' de Lokyng	ge	20	0	0	
Porc' X mar.'	•••	5	13	4	
Porc X m' de Westgynge	•••	4	0	0	
Pquis' Cur.'	•••	0	0	7	
In modern English this may be translated as the-					
Return of Free Tenements in East	t Locki	nge	13	I	10
Rich lands in Ardington	•		I	6	8
Pasture land in Pinmarsh		•••	4	13	4
Farm known as the Manor of Lo	ckinge	•••	20	0	0
Value of pigs in the Manor	•	•••	5	13	4
Value of pigs in West Ginge		•••	4	0	0
Rich Ploughlands	•	•••	0	0	7
The lands at Ardington above referred to are no doubt the					

farm known as Red Barn, which, though situated in Ardington Parish is part of Lockinge. We also see from this return that the lands at Pinmarsh have always been adopted for grazing purposes, unto the present day. Pigs had been a valuable item in the farmsteads of the village since Saxon times, and the Parish at this time, still probably contained extensive plantations and thickets of beech and oak trees in which they were largely herded, especially in the autumn and winter, to pick up the beech-mast and acorns, as described by Scott in the opening chapters of "Ivanhoe." The number of pigs in Lockinge and Ginge must have been great, to be valued at the above sums. To arrive at a value compared with the present day these amounts should be estimated at twenty times the sums mentioned.

The change of ownership of the Parish and Manor of Lockinge made little difference, we may suppose, to the tenants who had been renting under the Abbot. The Crown continued to hold the Estates and take the rents until 1546, when they were granted to John Wynchcombe, son of the celebrated Jack of Newbury. The previous year, that portion known as Pinmarsh had been granted to Alexander Umpton. John Wynchcombe had extensive grants of land made to him in reward for his zeal in the Reformed Religion. Fuller mentions "Berkshire lands as being skittish, and apt to cast their owners," and Lockinge proved no exception to the rule. Alexander Umpton had sold Pinmarsh in the same year which he had purchased it, to John and Henry Coxhedd, who as already stated had been tenants here previous to the Dissolution. Thomas Wynchcombe who inherited his father's property, soon after sold the Lockinge estates to John Doe. The Does were an old Berkshire family.

A John Do lived at Steventon in 14—, and in that Church still exists a brass to Richard Do and his wife, dated 1476, and these had probably been settled at Lockinge for some time, as their names occur in the earliest entries of the Parish Registers which commence in the first year of Edward VI. "Agnes Doe daughter of John Doe was baptised ye 7th day of Januarie, 1548." John Doe died in April, 1557, leaving his estate to his eldest daughter and heiress Joane who was born in 1545. In 1565, Joane Doe married Edward Keat, Esq., the third son of William Keat, of Hagbourne, Berks, and he settled at Lockinge, possessing the Manor in right of his wife. The Keats were a family of note in Berkshire as early as 1433. Edward Keat and his wife both died in 1624; they were buried in the vault at the east end of the south aisle of the Parish Church. They had 11 children, the names of all being recorded on their tombstone, which also contains brasses of him and his wife. Their eldest daughter Jane married Richard Southby of Carswell Manor in the Parish of Buckland, and a monument in the nave of the Church there, records her death on the 4th of September, 1648.

About this time a family named Redish seems to have held lands here. Nicholas Booth of Fawler Court, married Joan, daughter of Nicholas Redish, of Lockinge, in 1620; and earlier still, in Chancery proceedings temp. Queen Elizabeth, an action was brought by Walter Hungerford against Richard Radish "to recover rents reserved by lease—a moiety of the Manor of East Lockinge, the inheritance of plaintiff, and devised by him to defendant."

On the death of Edward Keat, his third son—Francis, succeeded to the property. Edward, the eldest son, probably

inherited some of the family possessions elsewhere, although he was buried at Lockinge on his death in 1649.

Francis Keat married Frances, the daughter of Sir John Hungerford, of Cadenham, Wilts. He also died the same year as his eldest brother and was interred in the family vault, leaving his estate to his son Edward who was born in 1619. He was married at Kintbury, January 12th, 1647, to Cecilia, the daughter of Sir John Darrel, of Barton Court, Berks, and West Woodhay. His wife's grandfather was brother to the notorious "Wild Darrel" of Littlecote Hall.

Edward Keat was one of the Commissioners of the Land Tax in 1656, and also a Justice of the Peace for the County of Berks; his name appears as a witness to the deed of the marriage settlement of his wife's sister, dated 12th May, 24th year, Charles I.

Several of Edward Keat's children were baptized at Kintbury.

Neither he nor his father—Francis Keat appear to have taken any prominent part in the Civil War which in their day was raging not only in the whole of the country but affecting greatly the country of Berks, while the neighbouring towns of Faringdon, Abingdon, and Newbury, were centres of the unfortunate conflict.

Although his uncle, Southby of Carswell, had espoused the cause of the Puritans, Edward Keat's sympathies probably sided with the Royalists, for while his name does not appear among the list of those Berkshire gentry who had to compound for their estates for their loyalty, yet he was one of the twelve in this county, who, after the Restoration, was chosen to receive the decoration of "Knight of the Order of

the Royal Oak," which Charles II. intended to have created in 1660.

These Knights were to have worn a silver medal, pendant from a ribbon around their necks, bearing a device of the King in the oak tree.

This intention was never carried out, as it was thought best to let bygones be bygones, and it was feared this institution might be the means "of creating afresh the animosity and heats of the past," but which were now beginning to be healed.

Edward Keat's estate was no mean one in the county at this time, for the annual value of it was returned at £1000. He died in 1679, aged sixty, and was buried in the family vault in the Church where a small oval tablet records his virtues; perhaps, as stated thereon, "he pleased everyone" including both Parliamentarian and Cavalier, and so retained the favour of both. Of his ten children one only survived him, a daughter named Annie. She married Edmund Wiseman who now became Lord of the Manor.

Edmund Wiseman was the son of Edmund Wiseman, of Spereshault Court, in the Parish of West Hendred. They were originally an old Steventon family, in the south aisle of which Church was their burying place. They were related by a previous marriage to the Keat family. John, the eldest son of Richard Southby and Jane Keat, married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edmund Wiseman. Spereshault Court, their Manor house in Hendred, took its name from a previous family of that name. This Manor house was destroyed in 1721.

Edmund Wiseman was Sheriff of the county in 1685, and a Justice of the Peace; his signature as such may be seen

in the Book of Affidavits for burying "in wollen" still preserved amongst the Parish Registers. His wife died in 1690, and was buried with her father: and he died in 1694 without an heir, their only son Edmund having died an infant in 1681.

The Lockinge estates now reverted to the Keat family who do not appear to have resided here, but probably let the Manor, as sometime before 1700 when Ashmole visited the Parish, collecting his "Antiquities of Berkshire," he mentions it as the seat of Mr. Prone. In 1696 there is mentioned as "Paid to the Exchequer of William III., 25th September, a rent out of a tenement in Lockinge 2s. 11½d." What tenement this was we know not.

About the year 1720 the property was purchased by Matthew Wymondsold. The Wymondsolds were originally an old Putney family. Richard de Wymondsold was one of the Commissioners for renewing the truce with France, 25th year, Edward III.

Sir Dawes Wymondsold who died in 1674 was an ardent Royalist.

This owner of Lockinge is said by Clarke to have been a fortunate speculator in the South Sea Company. At all events he won in 1734 what was known as the 'Great Case in Chancery' against that Company, in which he appeared as defendant.

In 1740, Mr. Wymondsold built the Manor House near the Church, probably on the site of the old Mansion, of which, not a trace or tradition remains. It may be that the building now occupied by Mr. C. H. Eady and known as the Manor house, is the site of the residence of the old Lords of the Manor; and is perhaps identical with the "Farm of

East Lakinge" mentioned in the list of Abbey possessions in the Reign of Henry VIII. All trace however, of any original buildings would have been lost (if they existed so late) in 1821, when the entire homestead was destroyed by fire.

Matthew Wymondsold died in 1757, at Stanstead, but was buried at Lockinge in the vault of the Lords of the Manor, where his wife and a son had previously been buried. He had served as Sheriff of the county in 1737. His sons successively held the Manor.

Francis Wymondsold died in 1759. William Wymondsold died in 1779.

Charles Wymondsold, who was Sheriff in 1760, married as his first wife the daughter of Robt. Knight, Esq., afterwards created Lord Luxboro' of the kingdom of Ireland, and M.P. for Castle Rising, and afterwards made Earl of Castlereagh. Of his second wife, it is not known out of what family she sprang, but she is believed to have been of Irish extraction, as she had a mother living in that country whom she crossed the channel to visit with Mr. Wymondsold soon after they were married.

Mr. Wymondsold died August 23rd, 1776, leaving his estates to his widow Sara, who some time before 1790, married as her second husband, John Pollexfen Bastard, Esq., a member of a well known and wealthy family who had been settled in Devonshire since the Conquest.

Both Mr. Wymondsold and Mr. Bastard added largely to, and improved, the Lockinge Estates; the latter being an ardent agriculturist. He attempted irrigation at a great expense at East Lockinge, but it did not succeed, the cause of which failure was probably due more to the defect of

judgment in his labourers, than any fault in the stream.\*
No traces now remain where these experiments were carried out.

Sir Henry Martin when created a Baronet, June 21st, 1791, was described of "Lockinge in Berkshire," but he had no other connection with this place than occasionally occupying Mr. Bastard's house, they being great friends.

Mrs. Bastard died at Portland Place, her husband's London residence, on the 26th May, 1808; and was buried at Yealmpton, their seat in Devonshire; leaving her husband her heir, who on July 3rd, 1809, married as his second wife, Miss Annie Martin, the third daughter of Sir Henry Martin before mentioned, who was Member of Parliament for Southampton and Controller of the Royal Navy.

J. P. Bastard, Esq., died on the 4th of April, 1816, at Leghorn in Italy, where he had gone for the recovery of his health. He was Colonel of the 1st Batt. of the Devon Militia and had represented that county in Parliament since 1780. "In his Parliamentary career Mr. Bastard uniformly manifested perfect independency, and a warm attachment to the interests of his county."† By his will he left his estates including Lockinge, to his widow, with reversion to his nephew, who was residing here in 1837. Sir Henry Martin, the son of the first baronet, also appears to have been a frequent visitor to the Manor House. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bastard and he are still remembered by the older inhabitants, the latter as having been a great sportsman.

Mr. Bastard having possessions in Devonshire, and also occasionally residing in London, his Berkshire residence was a convenient halting place on their journeys to and from



<sup>\*</sup> Mavor's Agriculture of Berks. † Gentleman's Magazine.

town. Like all the wealthy families before the introduction of railways, they used their own coach and team on their travels.

In 1853, the Lockinge estates were for sale, and were purchased by Lord Overstone. The contents of the mansion had before this been disposed of by a sale, and many of the objects thus dispersed are still preserved in the neighbourhood.

Lord Overstone's only daughter married in Lieutenant Col. Robert James Lindsay, born April 18th, 1832. With his regiment the Scots Fusilier Guards, he served with distinction in the Crimean War. services in this campaign he received not only the Crimean Medal with four clasps, but the honour most coveted by the soldier, the Victoria Cross, for his conspicuous bravery both at the Battle of Alma and of Inkerman. On Lieut. Col. Lindsay's marriage he assumed his wife's name in addition to his own, and as Lieut. Col. Loyd-Lindsay has been Lord of the Manor since that time. From 1865 until 1885, he represented the county in Parliament, and 1877 to 1880 was Financial Secretary to the War Office. In 1881, Col. Loyd-Lindsay was created a Knight of the Order of the Bath, and in 1885 he was raised to the peerage as Baron Wantage of Lockinge.

Under the present owner great improvements have been made. The Manor House has been enlarged to more than double the size of the original building. The pleasure grounds and gardens attached to the old Mansion must have been very insignificant compared with the present ones. As long ago as 1846 the traveller was enraptured by the fair aspect of "a dell of singular and peculiar beauty at East

Lockinge," but what would he say, now that it is laid out with taste and skill, extending over the site of the old Rectory house and part of the village; while its rockwork and lovely nooks occupy spots still remembered by the older inhabitants as the sites of their early dwellings.

Two objects of interest still remain which 100 and 150 years ago were considered necessary adjuncts to the old country house gardens. In the side of the hill, on the northfront of the Mansion, is excavated a Grotto, now devoid of the shells and rock-spar which are said to have originally decorated the interior, and degraded to the use of a cattle shelter. Concerning this Grotto—as with many others in the country—a story is told by the old people (but without any foundation) that when first constructed, the then Squire offered a considerable sum of money to the man who would consent to take up his abode here and live a hermit's life for seven years, during which time he was to see no one, his meals being lowered to him through a sky-light from above; neither was he to cut his hair or nails, or to wash. cupidity of people does not appear to have been so easily aroused in those days as it probably would be in present times! The tradition gives no reason for the offer being declined, but it does say that the Grotto remained without an inmate.

Leaden figures of all descriptions were also to be found at one time in most of these old gardens. One of them still exists in the pleasure grounds at Lockinge though amidst modern surroundings. Generally known as the "Sleeping Beauty," it is a copy of the antique marble Statue of Ariadne in the Museum of the Vatican at Rome. It may be described as a female figure life-size, reclining, lightly shrouded in a

robe with the head resting upon the right arm. The Grotto above mentioned was constructed by the first Mr. Wymond-sold and this figure may be of about the same date. Casting in lead was a special industry in the 18th Century. One celebrated maker, John Van Wort, came over to England with William III, and other makers were in high vogue about 1740. The last leaden figure foundry of repute was Cheere's of Piccadilly about 1787. Many of these figures were melted down into bullets in Napoleon's Wars and the American War of Independence.

The Mansion is surrounded by terraces and formal boxedged flower beds and balustrades.

Beyond these, sloping lawns stretch, on the North side towards the lake, on the West to the stream and rockeries and on the South beyond the Church to Betterton Glen, which now forms part of the pleasure grounds.

The Kitchen Garden, with its range of vineries and fruit-houses is on the rising ground to the South known as Kitford. On the East and West sides of these gardens are pairs of massive entrance gates of wrought iron work. Two smaller pairs but of more intricate workmanship are erected on the South side of the Mansion, the vine with its leaf, fruit, and tendrils being produced in hammered iron with exactness.

Lord Overstone was a munificent art patron, and Lord Wantage, the present owner, being of similar tastes, the Mansion contains a priceless collection of paintings and other works of art. The following account of Lockinge House and some of its treasures has been kindly supplied by Lady Wantage.

The entrance to the Mansion is on the north front. The Entrance Hall opens into the Tapestry Hall, a two storied

room thirty feet square, which with the Drawing Room were built by Lord Wantage in 1868. The lower part is panelled; the north wall with oak archways, pilasters, and gallery, form an old London City Hall; the other three walls with very finely carved old Italian walnut panelling, let into which, on the south wall, is the celebrated picture by Murillo of the Virgin and Child in Glory, surrounded by angels, sometimes called "La Vierge Coupée." This picture was painted at Seville in 1678, for the Chapel of the Hospital de los Venerablos. During the Peninsula War the upper part containing the figures of the Virgin and Child was cut out. This part of the picture found its way to England, and was ultimately purchased by Lord Overstone. The remainder of the picture was taken by Marshal Soult to Paris and remained in his collection till 1862, when Lord Overstone succeeded in acquiring it, and the two long separated portions of the pictures were thus reunited. It is a masterpiece of Murillo, and one of the finest works of the Spanish School of the 17th Century.

The upper part of the Hall is hung with fine old 16th Century Tapestry, illustrative of Scenes in the life of Cyrus. The medallions in the borders are very curious and beautiful, the subjects being taken partly from Æsop's fables.

Among the smaller pictures in this Hall are three oilcolour sketches of Scenes in Capri, by Sir Frederick Leighton, P.R.A.

A Sketch on the Coast of Cornwall, by F. Dicksee, R.A.

The Saviour Enthroned with a Bishop kneeling, a very small but wonderfully highly finished painting, probably by Hans Memling. Flemish School, 15th Century.

Opening out of this Hall on the south side of the House

is the Drawing Room, fifty feet long. The walls are covered with red silk and divided by carved and gilt oak pilasters. At each end is a lofty marble and oak chimney piece, above which is panelled, at the west end an early picture by Cuyp, representing a group of Dutch children and sheep, with a landscape and the Tower of Dort in the distance. At the east end a picture by *Bonifacio* (Venetian School), the *Virgin and Child surrounded by Saints*. It was formerly in the collection of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.

This room contains many other pictures, viz:-

Portrait of Isabella de Valois, third Wife of King Philip II of Spain, by Pantoga de la Crux (the pupil of Coello). A replica of this picture by Pantoga is in the "Prado" Museum at Madrid.

Portrait of *Domenico Poggino*, an Italian Medallist, by *Tibursio Passerotti*, Bolognese School, 16th Century.

Portrait of Cornelia Gonzaga de Maffeis, painted in the 24th year of her age, 1586, by an unknown Italian artist.

Sketch of a Lady's Head, probably a study for the celebrated portrait by T. Gainsborough, R.A., of the wife of Colonel Graham (afterwards Lord Lyndock), who died young, and which is in the National Gallery at Edinburgh.

Waiting for the Miracle (Venetian School).

Two large upright pictures by Sir Edward Burne Jones, Bart., namely:—

Caritas, a beautiful figure of a woman holding in her arms two young children while others cluster round her feet, remarkable for richness of colour, painted 1870.

Temperantia, a female figure in classic drapery, pouring water upon the flames of vice which play around her naked feet, painted 1872.

Girls dancing by the Sea, sometimes called a "Pastoral Symphony," by the late G. Mason, A.R.A. It was selected for exhibition in the English Section of the Great Exhibition at Chicago in 1893, as being one of the most beautiful pictures by this master, whose works are somewhat scarce. It was painted in 1869, and the studies for the landscape were made in the Isle of Wight.

The High Street, Oxford, an early work of J. M. W. Turner, R.A.

Whalley Bridge, Lancashire, also by Turner.

Ten Minutes to Decide, a scene in an old English garden, by G. D. Leslie, R.A. Painted for Sir Edwin Landseer, and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1867. After Landseer's death it was sold, with his own works, and acquired by Lord Wantage.

Adonis and his dogs going to the Chase, also known as "Adonis' Farewell," by Breton Rivière, R.A., painted in 1888.

The Schoolmistress, by Opie, R.A. (English School, second half of 18th Century).

A Head of Miss Violet Lindsay, daughter of The Honble. Colonel Charles Lindsay, now Marchioness of Granby, by G. F. Watts, R.A.

A portrait of Lady Wantage, painted in 1884, by Sir William B. Richmond, K.C.B., R.A.

In this room are also two fine Florentine Cassones or Marriage Chests (15th Century) of carved and gilt wood, with panels painted with old legendary subjects.

Beyond the Drawing Room is the Garden Room and the Garden Corridor, lined with flowers and leading to the Conservatory, which is paved with English Mosaic work,

copied from an ancient pavement in the Abbey of St. Denis in France.

The Picture Room (which was added in 1896) contains a choice collection, among which are two large and very fine pictures by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., namely:—

A grand sea piece entitled Sheerness, painted probably about 1802, and the Walton on-Thames Bridges, an exquisitely beautiful river scene with cattle in the foreground, painted about 1810. These two pictures belong to the best period of Turner's Art, and rank among his masterpieces. They were exhibited at the Guildhall Loan Exhibition of Turner's Works in 1899.

Four upright panel pictures by the celebrated French artist Corot, representing Morning, Noonday, Sunset, and Moonlight. They were painted by Corot probably about 1860, for his friend and fellow-artist Descamps, and they adorned his dining room at Barbizon near Fontainebleau till his death, when they were acquired by Sir Frederick Leighton who was anxious to possess such fine examples of the greatest master of the French "Barbizon" School of land-scape painters.

From Sir F. Leighton's Collection came also the small picture by *Alma Tadema*, *R.A.*, representing a *Corner of his own Studio*, with a girl reaching out her hand to a vase of roses. Alma Tadema painted this as a gift to his friend Sir F. Leighton, in whose possession it remained, together with the four "Corots," till his collection was sold after his death in 1896.

The Roe Deer, by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A., sometimes called the "Honeymoon." It was painted by Landseer for his friend Mr. Wells of Redleaf, and from his collection passed into that of Lord Wantage in 1890.

A small study for the *Highland Harvest* also by *Landseer*. Two early Italian pictures of the long, narrow "Cassone" shape by *Pesellino*, from the Torregiani Palace Collection at Florence, where they were formerly attributed to Benozzo Gozzoli, but are now believed to be the work of Pesellino, a Florentine artist who lived in the first half of the 15th Century. They represent the *History of David*, from his early shepherd days to his encounter with Goliath and his subsequent triumphal procession together with King Saul. These pictures which are painted on panels on a gold ground are in wonderful preservation, and are remarkable for their beauty of design, richness of colour, delicacy of execution, and the accuracy of early Florentine types, and details of costume. The horses also show a correctness of drawing and spirit, unusual at so early a period of art.

The Enchanted Castle, by Claude Lorraine, painted at Rome in 1664 for the Conestabile Colonna. It is one of the most celebrated and most beautiful works of this great French master. When hanging in Lord Overstone's London House in Carlton Gardens, it was a frequent subject of admiration to Lord Beaconsfield, who said he intended some day to write a romance suggested by it. It was purchased by Lord Overstone from Mr. Peter Wells' Redleaf Collection in 1848.

The Water Mill, by Hobbema (17th Century), a very fine example of this great Dutch master. It came from the well-known collection of Baron Verstolk de Seelen at the Hague, which was purchased in 1846 by Lord Overstone, Mr. T. Baring, and Mr. Humphry Mildmay, who divided it between them, Lord Overstone securing ten pictures which are mostly at Carlton Gardens, London.

A Sea Piece, by Backhuysen. (Dutch School).

A Church at Venice, by Guardi.

A Small Sea Piece, by Vaudevelde.

The Garden Room contains—a Portrait of Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I. by Van Dyck. This very fine portrait of the beautiful Queen in a white satin dress, her right hand resting on some pink roses, was for many years in the Collection of the Duke of Marlborough, at Blenheim Palace, from which Lord Wantage purchased it in 1886.

A portrait of Lady Wantage and her Egyptian Donkey, painted in 1897 by Breton Rivière, R.A.

A full length portrait, seated, of the *Marchioness of Grandy*, by *Shannon*, *R.A.*, 1895.

The Confession, by Frank Dicksee, R.A., 1896.

The Castle of Ischia, by C. Stansfield, R.A., 1851.

The Adoration of the Shepherds, a small picture by Palino Vecchio (Venetian School), from the Graham Collection.

Both the rooms already described, as well as other parts of the House, contain many valuable works of art of various kinds, such as fine specimens of Oriental China (cisterns, vases, beakers, plates, etc.). Chinese Cloisoune Enamels, Italian, Spanish, and Oriental Embroideries, Persian Rugs and Prayer Carpets, fine old French Furniture, and many other objects of art and vertu. Among these may be noted an antique bronze or copper figure of a Roman Slave holding a dagger behind his back. This was brought by Lord Wantage from the Island of Majorca in 1886, where it was stated to have been washed up from the bed of a river after a flood. It is probably of Roman work; it stands in the Garden Room.

A small antique Greco-Roman Bronze Statuette, with fine green "Patina" representing a Fawn, bearing the Infant Bacchus on his shoulders, found in Egypt, and brought by Lord Wantage from Luxor in 1896—a genuine piece of very fine "Cire Perdue" work—probably of the first Century A.D.,—and a replica in bronze of the life-size marble group of the same subject in the Museum at Naples.

A bronze Bust of Lord Wantage, and a Statuette of Lady Wantage on her favourite horse "Oakball," both by J. E. Boehm, R.A., 1866.

A Bronze Statuette (in a niche in Garden Corridor) of a youth with a Hawk, by the French Sculptor A. Thabord.

In the Entrance Hall stands a bronze model of Lord Wantage's celebrated Shire Horse Prince William, by George Wade, and a bronze figure of Queen Elizabeth on horse-back, going to St. Paul's to return thanks for the Victory over the Spanish Armada—the figure by Morrell, and the horse by Chevaliers, both French Artists, were in the Paris Exhibition 1857.

On the west side of the Tapestry Hall is a small Study lined with book-cases, containing a choice collection of books, including many valuable works on art, amongst them is an enlarged and illustrated edition of Lyson's Berkshire, in three vols.; also one picture, a portrait of Lady Wantage (Hon. Harriet S. Jones-Loyd), as a child, by E. M. Edds.

From the Tapestry Hall a corridor leads to the Old Entrance Hall, in which are book-cases and stands containing a valuable collection of Engravings, Etchings, Sketches, Illustrated Books, and Autographs; which latter include a complete set of Autograph letters from Charles I, Prince Rupert, and the leading Cavaliers, which have been reprinted in "Warburton's Memoirs of Prince Rupert and the Cavaliers."

Here are also some pictures:-

Charity, by Briton Rivière, R.A., exhibited at the Royal Academy 1870. The Statue of Memnon, by F. Dillon, and a portrait of Lockinge Manners, a Shire Horse bred by Lord Wantage; painted in 1898 by Countess Helena Gleichen.

From this inner Hall we enter the Dining Room, forty feet long. Over the carved oak Chimney Piece, is a picture of poultry, pea fowl, &c., by *Hondecæter* (Dutch School). On the walls are:—A large landscape *View on the Arno*, by *Wilson*, R.A., 18th Century.

Coast Scene near Yarmouth, by Old Crome, a very fine example of this great master of the so-called Norfolk School, second half of 18th Century.

A Holy Family, with little St. John and St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine with her wheel, sword and palm, St. Joseph and St. Jerome. The Infant Saviour stands on the Madonna's knee and holds in one hand the orb and cross, the right hand raised in blessing. From the Dudley Collection, by Palma Vecchio (Venetian School).

Portrait of Lord Overstone, aged 85, painted at Lockinge in 1881, by Frank Holl, R.A.

Portrait of Lt. Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P. (Lord Wantage), by Walter W. Ouless, R.A., in the undress uniform of the Berks Volunteers, of which Regiment he was Colonel, and presented by that Corps to Hon. Mrs. Loyd-Lindsay in 1878.

Two early German pictures of Saints—Saint Geneviève and Saint Appolonia, and Saint Christina and Saint Ottelia, by *Altdorfer*.

On each side of the fire-place stand two tables with inlaid marble tops comprising fine specimens of Lapis Lazuli, Agate

and other rare stones. They came from the Ercolani Palace at Bologna.

At the west end of the House are Lord and Lady Wantage's Private Sitting-rooms, which, with the Old Hall, formed the original part of the House before the more recent additions were made.

Lady Wantage's room contains a choice collection of small pictures, mostly of the Italian School. Among them may be mentioned the—

Coronation of the Virgin, by Lorenzo de Credi (early Florentine School). Below the group of Our Lord and the Virgin in the sky surrounded by cherubs, are figures of Saints Barbara and Christina, and of St. Nicholas of Bari, and St. Julien of Rimini—the Patron Saints of Central Italy. This picture formerly belonged to the Poet, Rogers, and being a special favourite of his, hung at the foot of his bed.

Saint Jerome and Saint Sebastian, one figure on each panel, a very choice example of Pietro Perugino, the master of Raphael (Umbrian School).

Saint Agnes, by Giralomo Du Costa (Venetian School).

The triumph of Chastity, one of the six triumphs of Petrarch. An early Florentine "Cassone" picture of the 15th Century. Painter unknown.

Virgin and Child with Santa Lucia and St. James of Compostella, by Bonifacio, from the Hamilton Palace Collection (Venetian School).

Nymphs nursing the Infant Jupiter, a very beautiful example of Tintoretto (Venetian School), from the Graham Collection.

The Virgin with the Infant Saviour, St. John, and an angel kneeling, in a rocky landscape, School of Leonardo da

Vinci, formerly in the collection of Dr. Turton, Bishop of Ely. The composition is very similar to that of "The Vierge aux Rochers," by Leonardo da Vinci in the National Gallery.

The Virgin and Child, by Cinia da Conegliano (Milanese School), end of 15th Century, from the Minghetti Gallery at Bologna, and afterwards in the Collection of Prince Napoleon Jerome.

The Virgin with Infant Saviour and St. John. School of Bellini (Venetian).

Garden Party, by Lancret, a very beautiful example of the French School of the early half of the 18th Century. Exhibited at the Guildhall Collection of French pictures 1898.

A River Scene, by Van da Capella.

Portrait of a Lady in a large hat, by G. Romney.

A series of sixteen very small pictures by T. Stothard, R.A. painted as illustrations to the Pilgrim's Progress, and engraved and published in 1788.

Newick Abbey on the Wye, Surrey; a small picture by Turner.

Small portrait of Lady Lindsay with her violin, in a window seat at Balcarres, by Sir Coutts Lindsay, Bt.

The Benediction of the Harvest. Water Colour Drawing by Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford.

Landscape, by Wynants (Dutch School), from the Verstolk Collection.

Two small pictures by D. Teniers (Dutch School).

The Grimani Palace, Venice, by Canaletto.

A Wood Scene by Crome.

A Landscape by Domenichino.

Copy of Marriage of St. Catherine, by Correggio, by Sir William Boxall, R.A.

In the Library (Lord Wantage's Room) are-

A Harvest Scene, by 7. Linnell, R.A.

The Return of the Prodigal Son, by Bassano (Venetian School).

Portrait of Elizabeth, daughter of James I, afterwards Queen of Bohemia, aged six, painted by Zucchers, 1602.

Interior of the Church at Delft, by De Witt.

A Portrait Group, by Gonzales Coques (Flemish School, 17th Century).

Two small Water Colour Drawings of the Tapestry Hall, Lockinge, by Lady Wantage.

The upper floor rooms contain many Water Colour and other paintings; among them may be named, in the South Bedroom and Corridor—

A Lady seated by a Fountain, by Sir John Everett Millais, R.A.

The *Playground*, by  $\mathcal{J}$ . Webster, R.A., painted for Lord Overstone in 1852.

Small Portrait of Martin Luther, attributed to Albert Durer.

Cupids heating their arrows at the Torch of Love, a replica of a similar group in the large picture of "Vulcan's Forge," by Albani, in the Gallery at Turin.

A room over the Old Hall, with a rich plaster ceiling, now a bedroom, and hung with old Spanish red silk and gold brocade, was in former days the Drawing Room. It was occupied by the Prince of Wales when he and the Princess of Wales spent two nights at Lockinge, in June, 1898, on the occasion of the opening of the new buildings at Reading College.

Their Royal Highnesses have twice visited Lockinge, the previous occasion having been in 1877, when the Prince unveiled the Statue of King Alfred, by H.S.H. Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenberg, in the Market Place at Wantage.

Lockinge has also been twice visited by Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and by H. R. H. The Duke of Cambridge, who made it his head-quarters at the Cavalry Manœuvres in 1890.

Ardington House, also the property of Lord Wantage, in the adjoining Parish, contains a collection of Family Portraits of the Lindsay and Trotter families, including a Portrait of Lady Trotter (neé Gordon) Lord Wantage's Maternal Grandmother, by Ary Scheffer.

Portrait of Mrs. Lindsay, wife of General James Lindsay, of Balcarres, with her youngest son, the present Lord Wantage, on her knees, by Sir Frank Grant, R.A.

Portrait (in armour) of the Honble. Col. Charles Lindsay, M.P., who resided some years at Ardington, by Mrs. Jopling.

Also a collection of *Water Colour Drawings* of great beauty, chiefly copies from pictures by old masters, by *Mrs. Lindsay*, mother of Lord Wantage, who resided several years at Ardington and continued to paint till within a few days of her death there, at the age of 91, in 1894.

## CHAPTER III.

#### THE MANOR OF BETTERTON.

BESIDES the Manor of East Lockinge, described in the preceding chapter and which included the village, the Parish contains two other Manors, both described in Doomsday Book.

The Manor of Betterton was anciently called Bedretone, the final ton denoting the town or settlement of a Saxon chief or family, whose name perhaps corresponded with the prefix. In the Doomsday Book it is stated there were two manors here, referring no doubt to the two divisions still known as East and West Betterton. The record in the Book is—

## IN WANTING HUNDRED.

"The King holds Bedretone. Uluricus held it in the time of King Edward. It was then assessed at 10 hides, now it is assessed at  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hides. There is 4 ploughlands. In the demesne is one and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  ploughlands. There are 4 villagers and 5 cottagers with 2 ploughlands. In King Edward's time it was worth £6, and afterwards £3; it is now worth 100 shillings. The King has  $\frac{1}{6}$  hide which Ulflet held in the time of King Edward."

The Manor of West Betterton, which pertains more to these notes, being in Lockinge parish, is mentioned as follows:—

"Milo Crispin holds Bedretone and William de Leuricus held it in King Edward's time. It was then reckoned at 10 hides, now it is 5 hides. There are 4 ploughlands. There is one villager and 5 cottagers in the demesne and 2 slaves. There is a mill worth 5 shillings and 10 acres of meadow. It was then valued at £8, afterwards at £4; it is now worth £3."

From the above, it would appear that this manorial estate has altered but little in detail during the 800 years that have elapsed since the record was written. Its area of five hides with the four ploughlands and ten acres of meadow, is about the same as now, between 500 and 600 acres. It occupies a long and narrow strip between East Lockinge and Ardington Parishes. The mill here mentioned like the one at Lockinge, has long since disappeared. It stood probably near the north-west corner of the Manor House, at least, there is the only suitable site. In point of population it numbered more in A.D. 1086 than at the present day.

In the reign of King John this manor belonged to Thomas de Mazcey, who gave it to the Prior and Convent of Poughley, in the Parish of Chaddleworth, one of the lesser religious houses of Berkshire. This Priory had been founded in 1160, by Ralph de Chaddleworth. The following account is given in "Kennet's Parochial Antiquities," Vol. 1.

"At the Feast of the Ascension in 1244, an agreement by mutual indenture was made between William, Prior of Poghele, with the consent of the said Priory on the one hand, and Ralph de Chesterton, Knt., on the other hand:—That, whereas Thomas de Mazcey, Lord of the Manor of West Betterton, had given the said Manor to the Priory of Poghele, by the service of one knight's fee to the capital Lord to be paid at the death of every Prior, which Manor was now in the possession of Sir Ralph de Chesterton, he, the said Ralph should confirm the gift, and the Priors successively perform the service (then follows the agreement in Latin). The witnesses are Samson Folioth, Petrudes Muribi, Radifus de Bingedon, Radulfo folio Alani, Richard de Durneford, Elia Clerica, etc. This donation is recited in the confirmation in the 32nd year of Henry III."

Soon after this the said Ralph de Chesterton gave to the Priory of Burcester, Oxon, all his right and claim in the said service in the Manor of Betterton, payable at the death of every respective Prior of Poghele.

In 1291, the value of Betterton was returned as £3 15s. od.

In 1494, the Collins family entered into occupation of the Manor by grant from the Prior of Poghele, and continued to hold it on lease in direct descent from father to son, for many generations, until recently.

This family had probably been resident in the Parish some years before this date. Ralph Colyn of Lockinge was Patron of the Rectory of Whatcombe in the year 1434, and May 24th, 1437, he instituted Robert Attewood to the Living, and February 20th, 1448, Thomas Chapelyn was instituted to the Living by Beatrix Colyn, wife of the deceased Ralph.

The Priory continued to hold their possessions until 1524, when John Somer the last Prior surrendered his house and its property to the King on the dissolution of the smaller Monastries by Cardinal Wolsey, who granted it to the Abbot and Convent of Westminster in exchange for one hundred acres of land, part of which is now occupied by St. James' Park. In 1539, when the Abbey of Westminster was dissolved, these possessions of Poghele were regranted to the Dean and Chapter of the same Church.

Betterton continued the property of that body until purchased by the Rev. John Ferdinando Collins, the last of that family who had for so long leased it. On his death in 1889 it was bought by Lord Wantage.

Pedigree of the Family of Collins of Betterton.

Thomas Collins, temp. Henry VI.

John Collins, b. 1st Henry VII.

John Collins, b. 13th Henry VIII.

John Collins, b. 1st Mary.

John Collins, b. temp. Elizabeth=Joan Smallbone.

John Collins, b. 1640.—i. Ann Fetyplace.

ii. Eliz. Matthews.

Charles Collins, born 1666=i. Ann Head.

ii. Eliz. Coghill.

iii. Ann White.

Ferdinando Collins=Katherine Boote.

Rev. John Collins, b. 1753=Martha Smith.

John Ferdinando Collins, died 1826.

Rev. John Ferdinando Collins, b. 1812, d. 1889, last occupier of Betterton.

Rev. John Ferdinando Collins, b. 1837, Rector of Charlton, Wilts.

Their Arms are Vert, a griffin passant, or; a chief ermine.

Motto: "Per Callem Collem."

"The path of difficulty leads to the hill of glory."

This family early espoused the cause of the Reformed Religion. In 1521 or 1522, John Collins of Betterton is mentioned, with others in the neighbourhood, in the list of

heretics informed against by one, Robt. Pope, of West Hendred.

Another John Collins, of Betterton, was a Commissioner of the Land Tax in 1656.

Mr. Huett in his "Hundred of Compton" mentions Justice Collins of Betterton as always presiding at the dinner held at the Star Hotel, at Ilsley, on Market days, a century ago.

Others of this family took Holy Orders, three of whom at different periods were Curates of the Parish Church.

The Manor House contains remains of a very ancient building. It stands on rising ground, probably the same spot as was occupied by the homestead of Milo Crispin.

The Glen is worthy of special notice from its picturesque appearance. Its sombreness at dusk, especially when the trees are in foliage, no doubt led to its being called, not unfancifully, half-a-century ago, "The Witch's Walk."

The pieces of water around Betterton House were probably constructed for fish ponds, in the days when it belonged to the Priory of Poghele.

A man-trap, a relic of happily bygone days was recovered from amongst a mass of scrap iron purchased by the village blacksmith when the Mansion was sold. In detail it resembles an enlarged rat gin but with a powerful spring at each end. It measures forty inches in length, and armed with spikes on each jaw it must have inflicted terrible injuries upon the unlucky prisioner, and rendered escape impossible. It is now preserved in the Reading Room of the Mechanics' Institution at New Swindon, to which it was presented by the writer. The use of these man traps was prohibited in 1827.

# CHAPTER IV.

#### THE MANOR OF WEST GINGE.

THE Manor of West Ginge is a detached farm of 503 acres, lying between the Parishes of Ardington and West Hendred. This Manor, the ancient name of which was Gainze, is mentioned as early as A.D. 815 in the Abingdon Chronicles, and in A.D. 956 was given by King Edwy to the Abbey at Abingdon. Its name no doubt is derived from that of the tribe of the Gainas to which Queen Adelswith belonged, by one of whose followers this Manor may have been occupied at an early date.

It is again mentioned in the Doomsday Book as follows:

"The Abbey itself holds Gainz and always held it. In the time of King Edward it amounted to 10 hides. It is now 2 hides and 1 virgate. There are 5 ploughlands. In the demesne there is 2 carrucates. There are 4 villages and 18 cottagers with 2 carrucates. There are 5 bondsmen and a Mill worth 6s. and 6d. and 4 acres of meadow. The whole was worth  $\pounds 8$ , now it is worth  $\pounds 7$ .

Rainaldus holds of the Abbey 2 Hides. Normanus held it in King Edward's time. Then as now it was 2 hides. There is land to one ploughland and there are 2 cottagers and 2 acres of meadow. It was valued then at 40 shillings, now, at 30 shillings."

This survey was intended for the whole of Ginge; that portion lying in Hendred Parish as well as West Ginge. The latter is perhaps referred to in the last description, the

holding of Rainaldus. The Mill mentioned, occupied no doubt the site of the one demolished in recent times on the stream called Ginge Brook, towards West Hendred.

One old inhabitant in Lockinge who died at an advanced age some twenty years ago, used to relate that at this mill she spent the last guinea piece she ever possessed in the purchase of a bushel of flour.

Twenty-nine heads of families were the population at this time which it will be seen was greater than that of Lockinge. After the Dissolution when the Abbey Possessions at West Gynge were valued at £4, this Manor was granted with East Lockinge to John Wynchcombe. His son Thomas sold it in 1571 to Edward Horton, Esq. This sale does not appear to have met with the approval of the heir of Thomas Wynchcombe, for in Chancery Proceedings temp. Queen Eliz. the case was heard before that Court between Edward Horton, Plt., and Benedict Wynchcombe, Deft.—"To respect Plt's. title as owner of the manor or lordship of Ginge, purchased by Plt. off Thomas Wynchcombe, Esq." Edward Horton held the Manor until his death in 1599, leaving the property to his heir Sir John Horton, who at this time was residing at Elston, co. Gloucester, and who had married Jane, daughter of Sargeant Hanham, of Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

Benedict Wynchcombe does not appear to have relaxed his efforts to possess the Manor, for in the autumn of 1610 he purchased it off the above-mentioned owner for £1400. At this time he is described of Noke, Oxfordshire. He was still possessing it in 1613, and his nephew and heir, Benedict Hall, in 1640.

The Coxedd family had occupied land here as well as at

Lockinge, previous to the Reformation, and they remained until the end of the 17th Century, when the family of Castle appear to have been the chief residents of the Manor. This family too had long been settled here as farmers. The Will of a William Castle, of Ginge, was proved as early as 1567. From the Parish Registers it would seem that the occupiers of this Manor claimed the right of burial in the Chancel of the Parish Church.

The Manor was purchased at the same time as Lockinge by Matthew Wymondsold, and has formed one estate since.

A warm bath, at one time in repute with invalids, existed here in a gorge in the last century and until about the year 1810, when it fell into disuse, and although the bath itself is said to have been destroyed within the memory of the present generation, the past existence of these virtuous waters is apparently well-nigh forgotten.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE PARISH CHURCH.

THE Parish Church is dedicated to Almighty God in memory of All Saints.

Like most of our ancient Churches it presents a conglomeration of all styles of architecture. As a Church originally existed here in the time of Doomsday Book, it is evident that the first Church was built at Lockinge in early Norman or perhaps Saxon times; no doubt by the Abbots of Abingdon. Of this early edifice however no traces now remain with the exception of the Font which may be coeval with the Church.

Until 1886, the Church consisted of a Chancel, Nave, with a Tower at the West end, and a South aisle.

The Chancel measures—internally—fourteen-and-a-half feet in width with a length of twenty-six feet. It is chiefly of the decorated style, circ., 1307—1377, but contains features of an earlier date. The Credence Table formed in the South wall and the adjoining Sedilia, Squint, and Arch, being of the Transition Norman date—about 1280. The corbels on this arch are very grotesque and well worthy of notice. The east window of early decorated style consists of two lights quite plain. The two windows in the north wall are later; they are square headed, of two lights, each terminating in a trefoil, and from the outside appear at one time to have been continued nearly to the ground. The

splay of the eastern-most window still retains one of the iron hinges on which shutters were hung for closing the openings.

On the eastern face of the Chancel arch still remain the two arches with trefoil heads, the entrances to the stairs which led to the Rood Loft. These openings being always small, have led to much discussion as to their use by persons, but it is most likely the Loft was only entered for the purpose of lighting the lights on each side of the Rood, and as this duty devolved upon the Acolyte, often a mere boy, they were large enough for this purpose. Some maintain, however, that the priest ascended to the Rood Loft to read therefrom the Epistle and Gospel, but in the majority of cases the narrowness of these apertures where they still exist, must have rendered this next to impossible. The Chancel arch having been a later addition to the Chancel, about 1330, was probably moulded away, which may have led to the misfit of the recesses which are part and parcel of the arch. Mr. Allin indeed supposed the arch and adjacent window of the Chancel to have been erected elsewhere before being placed in their present position, which accounts for the wall on the north being cut away to open up the recess on that side while the opposite one is half blocked up by the south wall. The Chancel roof was boarded in 1853, the three massive old tie beams nearly 600 years old, are all that remain of the original roof.

The Nave, which, with the rest of the Church was in a dilapidated condition underwent considerable repairs under the direction of Mr. Street, R.A., in 1853. The walls and roof were replaced by new, and the north and south porches added to the doorways. The north door still retains its original position. The perpendicular window near the

Tower is original, but the sill was raised two feet and the stone-work refaced at this time. On the west side of the Chancel arch still remain the two corbels which once supported the Rood Loft. The total destruction of these lofts at the spoliation of the Churches during the Reformation, may be due to the fact that they were constructed of wood which fell an easy prey to the iconoclasts. Not one example now remains in the County, the last one which existed at Drayton, has been destroyed in modern times.

The north doorway is, next to the font, the most ancient feature of the building; ornamented with the embattled fret and billet mouldings, it is a beautiful specimen of the Norman architecture. In a recent lecture on the Norman doorways of Berkshire, Mr. Keyser places this example at Lockinge in the 3rd period of Norman work, dating from 1130 to 1170 A.D.

Both north and south doors have very fine ironwork of the decorated period, about 1350.

The embattled Tower, at the west end of the Church, is entered from the old nave by a lofty arch. Though low, not rising more than sixty feet or so from the ground, it forms a picturesque feature to the rest of the building. The date of its erection is recorded on an oval stone about midway in the north wall, inscribed "Anno 1564." This part does not appear to have been touched by the restorer since its erection. It replaced an earlier like erection or perhaps bell-cot, for in 1552 there were two bells here. The Tower measures 12 feet by 13 feet 10 inches, with walls 4 feet thick. The ground floor which is also the ringers' station, is lighted by a plain square-headed window of three lights. The floor above contains a clock said to be 150 years old, the clock

face on the north side is more modern, and besides the date, 1823, the loyal churchwardens of that time placed the royal initials upon it,  $_{G.R.}^{IIII}$ . The chamber above is the bell-loft; its contents fully described later. On the south face of the Tower is a large sundial, which, though its use must have then become obsolete, is said to have been renovated some fifty years ago, the artist remaining at his post from sunrise to sunset, to inscribe the figures.

In 1886, the addition of a south aisle to the already existing one, led to utilizing the old one for the Chancel, in order to make it more central. This portion of the Church was evidently first built about 1190 or 1200, being of the same date as the arch and squint which opened into the original Chancel. No doubt, as at first built it only extended the length of the Chancel, and may have been erected by a resident benefactor for a private chapel with its own altar. These side chapels were often dedicated separate from the mother Church, and this aisle appears to have been dedicated to St. Katherine.

All earlier portions of it had been destroyed before 1886. In the decorated period, 1310—1380, it was probably rebuilt when the east window (removed in 1886) was inserted. Later, in the Perpendicular times, and perhaps at the same time the Tower was built, the aisle was lengthened by the addition of an arch into the Nave, and a window was inserted in the wall at the west end. It remained thus until Mr. Street's restoration in 1853, when it underwent the same treatment as the Nave, the roof and walls being renewed, and it was again lengthened, the perpendicular arch was destroyed and two others introduced. The old east window

was retained, but the perpendicular west window was removed, the wall being without a light.

The second arch between the Chancel and the Nave was until recently occupied by an altar tomb, quite plain.

Mention has already been made of the Font. A writer of M.S. notes preserved in the Reading Reference Library, describes it "as the largest, roughest, and ugliest thing of the kind we have ever seen," but surely some allowance must be made for its antiquity. It is cylindrical in shape and of unusual dimensions as may be seen from the following measurements:—

Height from base ... 35 inches.

Outside diameter of bowl 39 inches.

Inside diameter of bowl 28 inches.

Depth of bowl ... 18 inches.

It has not existed all these centuries however without narrowly escaping destruction. A former Rector, who does not appear to have been interested in antiquities, mentions in his memorandum that he "removed the old font which was very cumbersome into the Churchyard to catch the drip." That this was done with the approval and perhaps wish of the Patrons of the Living, is evident from the fact that "All Souls' College" presented a new one to take its place. In the Churchyard the old font remained for many years, catching the drip between the chancel and the aisle. It was here in 1846, but some time before 1849 it was removed back into the Church and placed in the vestry. The restoration to its primitive use was the result of accident rather than design.

In 1852 the second bell being cracked, it was decided to re-cast it, but during the proceeding of lowering it from its

place, the tackle broke, and the bell in its fall so much damaged the new font, which was a small one on a pedestal, as to render it useless.

Accordingly the old font was restored, and the other after its being buried (it is said, to prevent secular use) was some time after dug up, repaired, and is now in Hermitage Church.

The vestry contains an interesting 13th century chest, still retaining its original ironwork and perhaps lock and key. The chest measures in length 4 feet 4 inches, 2 feet 2 inches wide, and 2 feet high. It has evidently been re-cased internally more recently, the initials and date, 1756, on the lid may refer to this repair.

The foot-pace in the old chancel is still paved with encaustic tiles, as ancient as the building. Two of these tiles are engraved in "Church's Patterns of Inlaid Tiles."

The sedilia in the chancel had been disused long before 1863, when two sanctuary chairs of oak were placed in the Church. Around the arms and back is carved the following inscription in black letter: "R. J. & S. H. Loyd-Lindsay gave me to Lockinge Church for the Glory of God, 1863." In the centre panel of the back are carved emblems of the Passion, the nails surrounded by the crown of thorns.

The year 1886 has left a lasting record upon the village, for in that year the Parish Church was thoroughly restored and enlarged at the sole cost of Lord Wantage, K.C.B., V.C. Architect, A. Allin. The addition which consists of a new south aisle greatly improves the external as well as the internal appearance of the Church. From the outside the new work breaks the hard straight lines of the original building, while the interior presents a handsome and substantial appearance, making it now one of the finest country

Churches in Berks, and quite removing the reproach cast upon it by one writer some forty or fifty years ago, who stated that "the Church possesses no attraction outside, or comfort or beauty within."

At this enlargement of the Church, the old south aisle was again lengthened, westward, this time as far as the tower, and as the new aisle was added to the already existing one, the chancel was re-formed in the original aisle, thus bringing it into the centre of the building, the old chancel being used as a vestry.

During the removal of the south wall, fragments of a Norman arch, and the semi-circular head of a small Norman window were found built into it. As similar fragments are to be found in the tower walls we may infer that the work of building the tower and extending the aisle in Perpendicular times, took place at the same date. The window head has been preserved and built into the small window on the south side of the chancel, a piscina being formed in the sill.

The new south aisle is designed in the Perpendicular style. It has a panelled ceiling with carved oak bosses at the intersection of the ribs. It opens into the Church by an arcade of oak octagonal columns with carved braces. The walls being too low to allow of clerestory windows, dormer windows are introduced in the south pitch of the roof. A new south porch of oak was also erected at this time in the new aisle, but the original door retained.

The font was moved to a position nearer the north door; opposite to it, in a recess in the wall, is placed a small carving in alabaster of the "Annunciation," brought by Lord Overstone from Rome in 1852.

The Church had been re-pewed in 1853 with low pews, but now it was entirely re-seated in oak.

The new nave and chancel are laid with mosaic pavement from old designs, carried out by Messrs. Burke of London. All the chancel steps are of polished black marble.

The old Decorated window formerly at the east end of this portion of the Church was removed, and a fine window of three lights with traceried heads, took its place, a similar one being inserted at the west end of the new building.

The three ancient brass candelabra are of very fine design and workmanship. They were obtained by Lord Wantage from a Jewish synagogue in the Island of Corfu.

The pulpit of carved oak and of Jacobean date was now removed to the south side of the chancel arch and mounted on a new stone base. It had formerly stood on the north side, where with the reading desk, and clerk's book rest below, it formed (until recent times) one of those structures known as "three-deckers."

Amongst the improvements on the old work carried out at this time, the old squint or hagioscope which had been half blocked up for generations, was opened through to its original condition, although its use had departed. These contrivances were to enable the worshippers in the side chapel in pre-Reformation times to have a view of the High Altar, that they in their devotions at the Mass, when the Sanctus bell recalled the wandering mind, might see the Elevation of the Host, and concentrate their devotions on what was at that moment the very essence of their public worship.

The altar tomb which once occupied the second arch between the chancel and aisle was destroyed in 1886 to

make room for the organ. Although nothing was discovered within it when removed, yet, beneath may still repose the dust of some old knight, a benefactor to his parish church, or perhaps the founder or rebuilder of the side chapel.

#### THE CHURCH BELLS.

The tower contains five bells; four in sequence and a small one called here, as generally, a ting-tang. Bells are not the least interesting objects enshrined in our old churches. In some instances they afford sufficient material for a book to themselves, and in every case, by their inscriptions, traditions, and customs of ringing, they have their story to tell. The old bell founders of three and four centuries ago generally inscribed upon their works a religious epigram, no doubt with the pious hope, that its note each time it struck out might re-echo the same, and ascend with the prayers of the faithful it called together. Coming to times later, more degenerate, though more business-like days, we generally find in most instances the chief object of the inscription is to advertise the founder's name, added sometimes to those of the churchwardens, who took the opportunity of thus recording their names in iron to hand down to posterity. We have examples of both in our own Church tower.

The following is the Inscriptions, to which are added the dimensions and any notes obtainable.

ISL. Round the shoulders "PRAYSED BE THY NAME O LORDE THAT HAST SENT, 1578." Below on the waist the founder's initials "I. W." divided by the figure of a bell.

Height 22 inches. Diameter of sound bow 33 inches.

The initial letters probably stand for John White, a Reading bell-founder of the 16th century, or for John Wallis, a founder at Salisbury about this period.

2nd. This bell was re-cast from an older one of which no information exists. It is inscribed round the shoulders,

W. TAYLOR, OXFORD, FECIT 1852.

on the waist in high relief +

Height 25 inches. Diameter 30 inches.

This firm, shortly after this date, removed to Loughborough, where, in 1855, they cast the peal of six bells for the neighbouring parish of Ardington. As they destroyed their books relating to their work at the Oxford foundry, they were unable to supply any information concerning this Bell.

3rd. This Bell is the oldest. The words of the Inscription being broken renders the reading of it somewhat difficult at first. It is inscribed round the shoulder as follows.

GOD BE OVR SPYD IN OVR BEGYNYNG.

"God be our speed in our beginning."

On the waist is a cross fleury, on each side of which are the letters "W. T."

These are probably the maker's initials.

Height of Bell 25 inches. Diameter 34 inches.

From the words of the Inscription this bell is probably not later than the middle of the 16th century.

Tenor: Inscribed Robt. Wells, Aldbourne, Fecit, 1793.

Its dimensions are: Height 29 inches. Diameter 36 inches.

As is usual with the bells from this firm, the Inscription is placed around the sound bow. The Wells' and their predecessors the Corrs,' supplied a vast number of bells in this and the neighbouring counties, from their foundry at the

village of Aldbourne, near Hungerford. No trace of it now remains though it was in existence from 1696 until 1825. This same Wells cast the fine peal of eight bells in St. Nicholas Church, at Newbury, the tenor of which weighs 25 cwt. The tenor at Lockinge is said to weigh 16 cwt. The Wells' claimed a high reputation for their works. In an advertisement in the Marlborough Journal, in 1772, reprinted in the Wiltshire Archaological Journal, by the Reverend W. C. Lukis, in his article on Church Bells, is the following: "At the bell foundry at Aldbourne, Wilts, Church bells are cast in a most elegant and as musical a manner as in any part of the kingdom; the founder having made the theory of sounds as well as the nature of metals his chief study; also hangs the same, finding all materials, in the most complete and concise manner. All orders will be punctually observed by Rob. Wells, Founder." Wells' boast does not appear to have been a vain one; local bellringers still speak of his bells as "the finest toned in the world."

The small bell is inscribed,

Robt. & Io. Wells, Aldbourne.

This bell has no date, which is not unusual for these smaller works. It is probable that these small bells were cast in quantities and kept in stock, while the larger ones would only be made to order. At Lockinge, as generally throughout the county, this bell is known as the Ting-tang.

The four bells are fitted with full wheels, and stocks and stays, for round ringing, which were renewed in 1856, but the ringing has been discontinued for some time past.

One tradition relating to the bells still exists in the village. It is said, Lockinge once possessed another bell, which being

cracked, was taken down to be repaired (it is presumed before the money was ready). It remained in the Churchyard without anything being done to it for a twelvemonth, and the story goes, that if nothing is done for a year to a bell, after being taken down for repairs, any other parish can claim it. This fate befell the bell in question, and the Ardington people came and took it away, and it now forms part of their peal. Certainly, the bell frame in the belfry which has the date "1620. w.c." upon it, is constructed to contain another bell. Until 1855, Ardington Church contained three large bells and a small one, which were re-cast into the present peal of six in that year. All the bells bear the mark of the tuner's chisel round the lip, which was the method some years ago of bringing the note of each bell into harmony with its neighbour. With long usage the clapper of the bell wears a considerable indent in the soundbow which somewhat deadens the sound. To obviate this a process known as quartering is resorted to, by which the bell is given a quarter turn, the clapper consequently striking in a fresh place. The first and third here have been treated in this manner, probably at the time when the bells were. re-hung.

There now remain no old bell customs with the exception of the death knell, which was in ancient times known as the passing bell, from its being tolled when a parishioner was "in extremis."

Here, the sexton as soon as possible on hearing of the death, proceeds to toll the bell as follows:—

For a man—Three strokes on the Treble.

Three ,, ,, 2nd.
Three ,, ,, 3rd.
Three ,, ,, Tenor.



After a pause the tenor is rung up, set for a minute, and then rung down. For a female two strokes are given on each bell, and for a child, one. The tenor bell is also tolled at 8 o'clock on the morning of the day for the funeral; this may be a survival of the ancient practice of saying a mass at this hour for the repose of the soul of the deceased; and finally it commences to toll an hour before the time of the funeral when it is left "set" on the arrival of the corpse at the Lich-gate, and after the burial service is rung down.

The tenor bell is also the Induction Bell. The new Rector on his admittance to the Living, locks himself in the Church and notifies his Induction to the parishioners by tolling the bell, raising it, and setting it, and then lowering it.

Until a few years ago it was also a custom to ring the second bell for fifteen minutes every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock. Elles mentions this time in his "Church Bells of Kincardineshire," where the Scotch folk give the reason as being "to let ye ken it's the Sabbath"; but whether this, or a survival of the Pre-Reformation hour of Mattins, is uncertain, more probably the latter.

# CHURCH MUSIC-PAST AND PRESENT.

Our forefathers more than a century ago probably had no musical accompaniment to their Church services, but until 1825 the village band supplied the orchestra for the Parish Church of East Lockinge, and the names of the last three of these performers, brothers, have come down to us, viz: Benjamin, William, and Thomas Gerdin. These musicians with their flute, first violin, and bass viol, together with the vocalist members of the congregation used to occupy the gallery, which, until improved away in the restoration of 1853, was fixed under the tower arch. In 1825, the village band

gave way to the barrel-organ, which about this time became fashionable in most of our village churches. This instrument was built by a no less celebrated maker than John Walker, who now enjoys a world wide reputation for building organs. The firm kindly informed the writer that having destroyed their books previous to 1828 they could give no particulars of the instrument in question, but it appears to have undergone a thorough repair once however during its existence in the Church, as follows:—

May, 1838.

Repairing organ in Lockinge Church, viz.:-

"The organ taken partly to pieces and thoroughly cleaned. The pipes cleaned and put in order. The key frame taken to pieces and repaired. New staples and pins put on the barrels where required and the organ tuned."

As these repairs were carried out by the instruction, and at the expense of Mrs. Bastard, that lady was probably the original donor of the instrument. This organ continued in use as late as about 1870. Of the five tunes which were its compass, only one is remembered, the "Old Hundredth." On its removal to make room for a harmonium, it was placed in the churchwarden's barn, where it soon fell a prey to the mischievous lads of the village.

The harmonium in its turn gave way to the present organ, built by Messrs. Jones, of Pentonville Road, London, and presented by Lord Wantage at the restoration of the Church in 1886. Its dimensions are as follows:—

Two manuals and separate pedal organ.

The compass of the manuals ranging from G.G. to A. Fifty-eight notes.



The compass of the pedals from C.C.C. to F. Thirty notes.

Stops. Great organ. Clarionet 8ft.; fifteenth 2ft.; harmonic flute 8ft.; principal 4ft.; dulciana 8ft.; stop diapason and claribella 8ft.; open diapason 8ft.

Swell organ. Violin diapason 3ft.; double diapason 6ft.; lieblich gedacht 8ft.; gamba 8ft.; vox celestial 8ft.; gemshorn 4ft.; piccolo 2ft.; oboe 8ft. Pedal organ, Bourdon 16ft. Couplers, swell to great, swell to pedal, great to pedal; three composition pedals to great organ, and three to swell organ.

# ANCIENT REFERENCES TO CHURCH.

The following Will of Thomas Aldeworth, of Lockynge, dated 15th May, 1515, gives an interesting insight of the appearance of the Parish Church as its services were conducted in Pre-Reformation days.

"To be buryed in Saint Katherine's aisle of Lockyng."

"To the Rood Light ... xijd."

"To the High Altar of Lockyng Church xijd."

"To our Laydy Light ... viijd."

"To the Hearse Light ... vjd."

"To St. Katherine's Light ... iiij."

"And 46s. 8d. to provide a taper of wax to burn there during Divine Service for the space of a year."

To Sir Richard the parson he willed xijd., and to Christian Chare was "willed forty shillings for to buy a cope for the Church at Lockyng."

The witnesses to the Will are:-

Maister John Estmonde parsonne there

Robert Aldeworthe and

Sir Richard, parson and parish priest.

John Aldeworthe, probably son of the above, left by his

Will, dated 1st July, 1545, "xL shillings to Lockynge Church."

The sums of money mentioned above were of course much larger if compared with present day value.

The Reformation wrought great change in the ornate services of the Church, and the "Lights" enumerated here had been extinguished some five or six years, when Edward VI's Commissioners in their tour through Berkshire made their inventory of

# CHURCH GOODS AT LOCKINGE.\*

oth of August, 1552, John Coxhed and William Darnell, churchwardens. Viz:—A Chalice of silver parcell gilte; one vestment of red Sarsnet embroidered, with other ornaments, and used for the priest to minister in; one vestment of fustean embroidered with cruell work with all other apparel for the priest to minister in; one black vestment with all other ornaments used for the priest to minister in; one white fustean vestment with all the apparel belonging to the same; one cope of red Sarsnet, one cope of green Satin of Bruges. Two Altar cloths of Satin of Bruges; one surplice, two bells, two linen altar cloths, two brass candlesticks. And all the said parcels safely to be kept and preserved, and the same and every parcel thereof to be forthcoming at all times, when it shall be of them (the churchwardens) required.

# THE CHURCH PLATE AT PRESENT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING.

1. Silver Chalice, the bowl surrounded by a chased, ornamented band.



<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Church Goods in Berkshire." Walter Money.

Hall Marks-1. Small black letter T.

- 2. Lion passant.
- 3. King's Head crowned.
- 4. Maker's mark. Letter H transfixed by an arrow. Date—Elizabeth 1576.
- 2. Plain Silver Paten.

Four marks—1st. Within a shield the letter c surmounting a w.

2nd. Sovereign's head crowned.

3rd. A lion passant.

4th. Black letter D.

Round the rim inscribed,

"This belongs to ye Church of East Lockins in Berks."
Weight 10 oz. 03 dwt. 00 grs.

3. Brass Alms Dish.

Centre embossed with a cross fleury, inscribed on the rim with the text:

"Thine are all things O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

Underneath is the following inscription:

→ F. K. Leighton, A.M. ecclesiæ de Harpsden in com. et Dioc. Oxon Rectori Ruri Decano. Hanc lancem Eleemioynis Fidelum in Offertoria recipiendis consecrandam peculiarem autem et pro pignore semper servandam.

A. S.

# " M.D.C.C.C.L.I.I."

4. A pewter Alms Dish. Plain, and probably modern. On the bottom is MADE IN LONDON between two X crowned.

Below. Superfine

Hard Metal.

5. A pure gold and jewelled Chalice presented to the

Church by Lord Wantage in 1886. This cup was formerly in the possession of Lord Overstone, and is mentioned by Mr. Gardiner as a notable piece of fine foreign work, the base of the cup perhaps solid gold.

Amongst other Church goods may be mentioned:

An Eagle Lectern in oak, from Munich, presented by Lord Wantage.

Also an Altar Frontal of fine ancient Florentine work, richly embroidered in silk, in panels of flowers, fruit, and birds, presented to the Church by Lady Wantage.

Service Books, bound in white vellum, the gift of a late Rector, Rev. W. A. Cole, 1886.

The Church is not rich in old stained glass, but in the head of the old Chancel window, in the north wall, nearest the arch, are fragments of fine, early, deep coloured glass, very thick, in which are the Castle of Castelle and the Fleurs-de-Lys of France, forming a border; and are portions of the Arms of the Fitz-Warines, of Wantage—Quarterly per fess indented Gls: and Arg: date, about 1350.

The East Window in this portion of the Church was filled with stained glass by the Rev. L. Sneyd in 1853. It represents "The giving of the Law on Mount Sinai," and "The Descent of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost."

On a small window, near the Tower, filled with stained glass, is a brass plate bearing this inscription:

"To the Glory of God and in loving memory. Francis Collins, Born 20th April, 1851. Died in Australia 21st of July, 1878."

The West Window in the Tower has the Arms of Abingdon Abbey.—Argent, a cross fleury between four martlets sable, also the Arms of the House of Hanover.

The centre of the new windows are filled in with a pattern of oak leaves in grisaille.

The East Window was added by Lord and Lady Wantage, soon after the restoration of the Church, in 1886. It was designed by their niece, Lady Jane Lindsay, daughter of the 25th Earl of Crawford. The Church being dedicated to "All Saints," the three large lights represent St. Oswald, St. Martin, and St. George; and the smaller lights above, the three archangels, St. Michael, St. Raphael, and St. Gabriel.

St. Oswald belongs especially to our country, both as Saint and King. He was King of Northumbria, and for many years he fought for the Christian faith against the heathen. He holds fast to the Cross in his right hand. This was the wooden Cross which he raised as his standard. Round it he and his little army knelt in prayer, before the battle which he fought against the heathen king Penda, when the Christians were victorious, in the year A.D. 635. "He was one of the few Kings who were Saints when Saints were Kings," said Bishop Lightfoot.

On the left is St. George, the patron Saint of England, whose fight with the dragon is typical of the conflict between good and evil.

St. Martin, on the right, was a brave Roman Soldier, noted for his kindness to the poor and suffering. Having given away all he possessed, he now divides his own cloak with his sword to wrap round a shivering beggar.

In the smaller lights, St. Michael is represented as weighing in the scales of justice, two figures, typical of the contending good and evil natures warring in the body.

St. Gabriel, as the messenger of God to man, bears a lily,

the emblem of purity, and an olive branch, the symbol of peace.

St. Raphael, the angel of compassion, is shielding a small figure, representing the soul.

The stained glass of this window is by Messrs. Heaton & Bell.

## MONUMENTS.

The Church contains many monuments of interest although none date earlier than the beginning of the 17th century. Others which existed when Mr. Clarke wrote his "History of the Hundred," have since disappeared. Unfortunately, at both of the last restorations—in 1853 and 1886, it was thought necessary to remove several of the stones from their original positions, so that now it is probable not more than two remain where first fixed.

In the former Chancel, on the north wall within the Sanctuary, is a neat monument with this inscription:

In Memoriam venerabilis viri Jacobi Gerard in Artibus Magistri, et nuper Ædis Christi in Oxon. alumni, qui filius erat Gulielmi Gerard de Harrovia super montem, in Comitatu Middlesexiæ, Armigeri, et quondam Consilii Ducatus Lancastriæ, Serenissimæ Reginæ Elizabethæ, necnon Tacobo. Placide potentissimo Principi in Domino obdormivit decimo Calendas Septembris Ano. Dni. 1628. Ano, autem ætatis suæ 350, et hic requiescit in spem beatæ Monumentum hoc posuit, amoris ergo, Resurrectionis. charissimus et gemellus frater ejus Johannes Gerard.

Translation of above :-

In memory of a reverend man, James Gerard, Master of Arts, and lately Student of Christchurch, Oxon, who was the son of William Gerard, of Harrow on the Hill, in the County



of Middlesex, Esquire, and formerly Counsellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to the most Serene Queen Elizabeth, and also to the most mighty prince James. Peacefully he fell asleep in the Lord on the tenth of the Calends of September, in the year of our Lord 1628, and in the 35th year of his age, and here he rests in the hope of a blessed Resurrection. This monument out of love therefore his dearest and twin brother John Gerard has placed.

Above, on a shield of four quarterings, as follows:-

1. Gerard; Argent, a saltier gules, thereon a crescent or.
2. Gules, a lion rampant or. 3. Argent, a lion rampant gules.
4. Argent, three torteauxes in bend between two cotises sable.

The Rev. J. Gerard here mentioned was the sixth son of William Gerard of the Manor of Flamberts, Harrow, by his wife Dorothy Page. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxon, 3rd of June, 1608, aged 14.; B.A. 1612; M.A. 1615. He was admitted to Grays Inn 10th of August, 1610. He died without issue. How he came to be buried at Lockinge it is difficult to surmise, unless we imagine his professional duties took him into the parish as a curate. The Burial Registers afford no clue, only stating that "James Gerard a gent and scholar was buryed ye 27th day of September."

William, his eldest brother, was father to Sir Gilbert Gerard, first Baronet of Flambards; created a Baronet April 13th, 1620. The title is now extinct. John—the brother mentioned in the monumental inscription—was the seventh son of his father, and a fellow student with James at Oxford.

Westward in the same wall is a monument, where, in a recess is the figure of a woman kneeling at a footstool, on which is an open book. Below is this inscription:

In memory of Mrs. Millicent Grace, late wife of Mr. John Grace, Vicar of Aldworth, in this countye, and daughter to Edward Needham, of Ilston, in the countye of Leicester, Esq. who was borne the last day of November, 1601, and dyed the 24th of August, 1633.

Had full sunned goodnes ever mett a grave,
With this tomb'd Saint, it here a Tombe might have;
Or could we vertue with the Corps interre,
As it had lived, here it had lodged with her.
But what's immortall, earthly rites prevents,
Yet selfe Memorialls rise best monuments.
She needs no statue, here a Husband's woe
Eternity does on itself bestow.
But that dryes up her tears which crowned her storye,
She went the Road of Saints, from Grace to Glorye.

Io. Grace S. T. B.

The Rev. John Grace was Vicar of Aldworth, Berks, from 1619—1658. He is mentioned in Col. Symond's Diary, May 2nd, 1644, as conducting that Antiquary of the Royalist Army round his Church and describing to him the effigies placed there.

Above this monument on an oval shield of two quarterings is the following coat of arms.

Grace impaling Needham. Gules semee of cinquefoils, a lion rampant or, argent a bend engrailed azure between two bucks' heads, cabossed sable.

When Clarke wrote his "History of the Hundred," a painting of the Needham arms with the words "L'escue de Nedham," was hanging on the wall opposite. This was probably a hatchment, it has long disappeared.

On the east wall of the old chancel are the three following tablets, removed here from a similar position in the new chancel in 1886.

On a plain, oval, black marble, this inscription:—
H. S. E.

Edwardus Keat, Arm. Francisci fil. de East Locking in argo Berceriensi; Qui Ceciliam Joh. Darell de Barton Court, Baronetti, filiam natu maximam et cohæredem in uxorem cepit; ex qua x suscepit Liberos (unicâ tantum filiâ Patri superstite, Edmundo Wiseman de Spereshalt Court, Ar. nuptâ) Berceriæ Eirenarcha, et Dep. locum tenentium unus: utroque ex officio admodum conspicuus. Pietatis erga Deum, Patriam, et utrumque Carolum, studiosiss. Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ assertor acerrimus: Ingens virtutum pagina. Universis candidus, et ab omnibus desideratus: Iniquissimis temporibus non impar, optimis dignus. Ito Viator, et quem legisti, exprime. Natus est, Nov. 28. A. C. 1619. Denatus, 26 Feb. 1679.

#### Translated as follows:-

#### Here lies buried

Edward Keat, Esquire, son of Francis (Keat) of East Lockinge, in the County of Berks, who married Cecily, eldest daughter and co-heir of John Darell, of Barton Court, Baronet, by whom he had ten children, (one only surviving her father, married to Edmund Wiseman, Esquire, of Spereshalt Court) Justice of the Peace and one of the Members of Parliament for the County of Berks, in either office very eminent.

In devotion towards God, his Country, and each King Charles, very zealous.

A most ardent defender of the English Church.

Long is the list of his virtues.

Upright in all things and beloved by everyone.

Not inadequate for the worst times, worthy of the best.

Go traveller, and imitate him of whom thou hast read.

He was born Nov. 28, in the year of Christ 1619.

He died 26 Feb., 1679.

On a white marble monument is-

In a vault beneath this stone
are deposited the mortal remains
of Matthew Wymondesold, Esq.
who died Aug. 24th, 1757,
Aged 80 years.
and of Elizabeth his wife
who died Dec. 24th, 1737, Aged 52 years.
and also of Matthew their son
who died Dec. 24th, 1732.
Aged 16 years.
Remember.

This monument terminates in a shield on which was formerly the arms of the Wymondesold family, now effaced with the damp.

On a small tablet surmounted by an urn—
Edmund Hawker, Esq.
Died June 21, 1782
in the 43 year of his age.

His unaffected piety, inflexible Integrity, Universal Benevolence, Unbounded Charity, his amiable Disposition and sweetness of Manner, with the faithful and constant discharge of the relative duties of Social Life, justly entitled him to the praise as well as affection of all who knew him.

His afflicted Widow erects this Memorial in testimony of his Virtues and her own sincere affection and sorrowful remembrance.

On the floor of the old chancel, under the north wall, is a black marble slab measuring 6ft. 6in. by 2ft. 7in. with this inscription—

Here lyeth ye body of Anne Wiseman ye only remaining daughter of Edward Keat of Locking esq. who married Edmund Wiseman, Esq. son and heire of Edmund Wiseman of Spereshault Court in ye county of Berks, esq. who departed this life ye 21 day of June Ao. Dni. 1690.

On the same slab below this inscription are incised the arms of Wiseman: Sable, a chevron ermine between three cronels argent, and then this inscription—

Here lyeth the body of Edmund, son and heire of Edmund Wiseman, esq. and Ann his wife sole heiresse of Edward Keat of Locking (Esq).

who died ye 30 of March Ao. Dni. 1681, aged 15 months.

At the head of this slab is a similar one, 6ft. 4in. by 2ft. 7in. with the following inscription:

Here lyeth Edward Keat, Gent. (the third sonne of William Keat of East Hagbourne Gent) and Joane his wife ye eldest daughter of John Doe of this Parishe Gent. married Anno Dni 1565. Had issue by her Edward, William Francis and John Anna Jane Agnes Christian Elenor Mary and Dorothy He aged 83 years died ye first of May 1624. she aged 79 years died the last of February the same year leaving behind good fames of Hospitalyty and other virtues.

Above the inscription, at the head, are two quadrangular brass plates with arched tops, on which are engraven Edward Keats and his wife, surmounted by another shield in brass with their arms, viz:-

Three wild cats in pale sable.

These arms were assumed in canting allusion to their name—Keats. A similar instance occurs on the North wall of Wantage Church, where on a small plate are the arms of Butler—three covered cups—the office of butler implying a cup bearer in ancient times.

These two monuments of the Keats' were originally in the South-east corner of the end of the South aisle, but in 1886 were removed to their present position.

Between the Chancel arch and the North door are the following series of mural tablets to the Collins family, placed here in 1886 when the South wall, to which they were affixed. was removed for the enlargement of the Church.

> In memory of Frances Catherine Collins. who died on the 10th September, 1850, aged 6 years and 7 months. Jesus said I am the resurrection

and the life. St. John Ch. xi., v. 25.

Sacred to the memory of Francis Brownsword Bullock. late of Ardington, who departed this life 17th August, 1785, aged 35.

of Ann his wife, daughter of
Ferdinando Collins, of Betterton,
who died 9th July, 1840, aged 91.
Francis, their son, aged 2 years.
Ferdinando died 16th February, 1815,
aged 41:

Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

H

To the glory of God, and in loving memory of the Reverend John Ferdinando Collins, B.A., of Betterton, Berks, this tablet is erected in his parish church by his widow and surviving children. Born October 12th, 1812, Died August 5th, 1889. He was educated at Winchester College and a gentleman commoner of University College, Oxford; Curate of this Parish Church from 1846 to 1861. for many years chairman of the Wantage Board of Magistrates and of the Board of Guardians in the Wantage Union. At his decease the estates of Betterton. held by the Collins family, from father to son for upwards of four centuries, passed out of their possessions. The path of the just is as the shining

light which shineth more and more,
unto the perfect day.—Prov. iv., 18.

On a shield on this monument the arms of "Collins,"
Vert, a griffin passant, or; a chief, ermine, beneath, on a scroll—"Per Collem Collet."

Above the aforementioned, on a large white marble, is H. S. I.

Sub hoc, Viator, Marmore Charæ conduntur reliquiæ, Annæ Caroli Collins de Betterton, armig<sup>r</sup>. uxoris amantissimæ, et Johannis Head de Hodcut, Armig<sup>r</sup>.

filiæ natu maximæ; entis febris et severioris As

Quæ sævientis febris et severioris Asthmatis unito impetu cito morti succubuit.

En! mater vere indulgens eodem tumulo tres liberos complexa est, totidemque reliquit superstites.

Parsimonia sua provida rei familiaris administra, Benignitate munificens pauperibus patrona; Quæ paternâ integritate, maternâ prudentiâ et longâ aliarum virtutum serie,

Iter in cœlum fecit minus arduum.

Tanto Religionis ardore unumquemque diem sacravit, Quanto solent alii non nisi supremum.

Et cum precibus fuerit indefessa, effecit, ut non tam ætatem vixisse dicatur, quam otåsse.

En! Vero multum cœlo dilecta, terræque grave nimis damnum, tot nec plures annos, quot Christus ipse in terris numeravit. Ætat. suæ 33, obiit primo die Junii, Anno Dom. 1707. Amoris ergo posuit

C. C.

Translated, the above may be read as:—
H. S. I.

Traveller, under this marble lie buried the dear remains of Anne, the most loving wife of Charles Collins, of Betterton, Esq., and eldest daughter of John Head, of Hodcott, Esq., who quickly succumbed to death by the combined attack of a cruel fever and more cruel asthma. Behold, the mother truly loving embraced three children in the same tomb and left as many more surviving her. By her economy a careful administrator of her household, by her kindness a munificent patron to the poor, who with fatherly uprightness and motherly care and by a long series of other virtues made the way to Heaven less difficult. With so great ardour of religion she consecrated every day as others usually consecrate their last. And although she was unwearied in prayers she concluded it should be said her life was not so much lived as idled. See! Much indeed beloved by Heaven, and to earth an exceedingly sorrowful loss, she numbered in this world just so many years, no more, as Christ Himself. Aged 33, she died on the 1st of June, in the year of Our Lord 1707. Therefore out of love C. C. placed this.

In a vault adjoining are deposited the remains of Mrs. Francis Harland, daughter of Charles Collins, of Betterton, in this parish, Esq., by Ann, daughter of John Head, of Hodcutt, in this County, Esq., and
relict of Richard Harland, of Sutton,
on the forest of Galtres, in the County of York, Esq.,
by whom

she had issue four sons, two survived her, Richard Harland, of Sutton, on the forest aforesaid, Esq.,

and Charles, Rector of
Luddesdowne, in Kent; who,
in gratitude to a revered parent, have
erected this monument; wishing to perpetuate
the remembrance of her
as a dutiful daughter, a faithful and tender wife,
an affectionate and careful parent,
a sincere friend, and a sensible and polite companion.
Sincerely lamented, she died at Bath, May 6th, 1781,
in the 75th year of her age.

In the same vault lie the Remains of her Sister,
Mrs. Charlotte Saunders.

Relict of John Saunders, of Woolstone, in this County, Esq., whose eminent virtues as a Wife and Mother render her

Memory dear to her surviving Relations and Friends.

On another is this:-

Near this place lie the Remains of the Rev. John Collins, M.A., who departed this life March 17th, 1826, in the 73rd year of his age. In the same vault are deposited the Remains of Martha, relict of the Rev. John Collins, M.A., who departed this life January 7th, 1841, in the 65th year of her age.

Mr. Clarke in his "History of the Hundred" mentions "an ancient blue gravestone, lying in the nave, about 6 feet long, 16 inches in breadth at the head and 12 inches at the foot, whereon was embossed a cross flory." This, he supposed, marked the grave of one of the Abbots of Abingdon. It has disappeared, probably at the restoration of 1853.

Under the tower, on a slab 6 feet 8 inches long and 2 feet 10 inches wide, is a long inscription in Latin to a previous Rector. Translated by Mr. Watts, who reprinted Ashmole's Antiquities, it reads thus:—

"Here lies the relics of Thomas Upton, formerly Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and thence by universal suffrage, his merits pleading for him, elected to the Rectory of East Lockinge, over which he had oversight, both as a Rector and example, he restrained the erroneous in opinion and morality by his authority. The wandering he detained by an eloquent affability, he conquered the insolent, procuring everybody's goodwill and obsequiousness to his successor. Reader, the rest of his virtues, his health and sickness learn patience, neither the weakness of a sight nor thirst exprest his dropsical burthen, as peaceably as if he lived to die. Stop here reader, the rest sounds of nothing but mortality, a whole train of diseases rushed upon him, and he yielded to the number, not strength of his enemies. At last, quite worn out with sickness he left his most loving

wife the 10th day of October, in the 50th year of his age, of Our Lord, 1684. At the head of the monument is incised "A cross moline."

Adjoining the above, at the foot, is a similar slab, 5 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet 3 inches wide. Above the following inscription is carved the Arms of Minshull.

"A crescent; issuing from the horns an etoile of 5 points."

Christophorus Minshull natus generosa familia in agro Sussexiensi:

Oxonii educatus, ac ibidem Facultatis Stæ. Theologiæ nuper Bedellus Armiger.

Cur hoc in loco sepultus, quæris? proh dolor! ad hanc villam iter conficiens

(iter eheu! quod ad sepulchrum duxit)
non procul hinc ex equo violentius
admisso decidit, delapso mors importuna viam et vitam intercepit.
Obiit morte repentina die xxi.

Junii, An. Do., MDCLXXXI. Ætat. Suæ XLV. Franciscus defuncti Christophori

frater pietatis ergo.

Translated as follows:-

Christopher Minshull, born of good family in the county of Sussex, educated at Oxford, and there of the sacred faculty of Theology, lately Esquire Bedell. Why buried in this place, dost thou ask? Ah! sorrow! Journeying to this village (a journey, alas! which led to his grave), not far from here he fell from his horse that slipped in its

furious gallop, and death unexpected, interrupted his journey and his life. He departed by a sudden death on the 21st day of June, A.D. 1681, aged 45. Francis, brother of the deceased Christopher, placed this therefore out of affection.

These two last mentioned monuments originally were within the Sanctuary rails, the former on the north, and the latter on the south side of the Altar.

By their side, also moved to under the tower in 1853 from the middle of the chancel is another blue marble gravestone 6 feet 6 inches long and 2 feet 10 inches wide, with the "figure of a woman in her usual habit," above her head the arms of Nedham, "a bend engrailed between two bucks' heads caboshed," both subjects in brass plates, the figure graven in a plate with an arched top similar to those of Edward Keat and his wife, already mentioned. The inscription is:

Hunc tumulum mærens posuit Frater Johannes Nedham.

(This monument was placed over her grave by her sorrowing brother, John Nedham).

Here lyes Mrs. Mary Nedham, youngest daughter of Mr. Edward Nedham, of Ilston, in the countye of Leicester, Esq., who was borne upon Friday, the 22nd day of April, 1611, and dyed upon Friday, the 16th day of January, 1628.

Here we have an instance, prevalent in those days, of unmarried ladies being called Mrs. This stone formerly being opposite to the one erected to her sister, Mrs. Grace, in the chancel, we may conclude that they were both buried in the vault under that portion of the church, the entrance to which

was under the chancel arch. The last occasion of it being opened was in 1853, when the arch was underpinned. A smaller vault may exist under that portion formerly railed in, as the Sanctuary. The other vaults were in the old South aisle, now the chancel and nave. The eastern end being that belonging to the Lords of the Manor of East Lockinge and the western end was long the burial place of the Collins', of the Manor of Betterton. As the vault under the chancel was the burying place of the Ginge manorial lords the Nedhams may have been connected with some family occupying that Manor, although I have been unable to identify it.

In the Herald's Visitation for Leicester, 1619, Harb. Soc., II. Vol., the age of Milicent is given as aged 18, and Maria, aged 9. Their father was Edward Nedham, of Ilstone, by Anna, daughter of Thomas Shawe, of Repingall, County Lincoln. Edward Nedham was the son of Francis Nedham, by the daughter of Richard Gamble, of Burton Overy, County Leicester. Francis Nedham was son of Thomas Nedham, of Alexton, County Leicester, by his second wife—Parker.

Under the west window of the tower is a stone with an inscription, of which part only is legible.

Under the new west window, on a marble tablet, with

bronze mountings (formerly affixed to the wall near the north door) is this inscription:—

H. M. S.

In memory of
Harriet, wife of Baron Overstone,
who died on the 6th November, 1864,
and whose remains are interred
in the adjoining churchyard.

This tablet

erected by her surviving husband, records his grateful remembrance of her domestic virtues and his deep reverence for her truly Christian

life and character.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

The well-kept churchyard which surrounds the Church contains few monuments of interest.

Under the east wall of the old chancel is a low tomb inscribed:—

In memory
of the Rev.
John Aldworth,
Rector of this
Parish in which he
resided 44 years.
He died
July 24, 1729.

This tomb was repaired and renewed by the rector of Lockinge, 1853. This tomb is said to have been formerly surrounded by iron railings, while the original stone was inscribed with the Charity he left the village. The fact that this portion of the inscription was not renewed, has wrongly led some of the older parishioners to suppose the bequest was larger than it actually is. The cause of the omission was probably on account of the identical words being worn away.

A long, narrow weather worn stone near the above is said to mark the grave of Dr. Green, a former Rector, who died in 1672. No inscription can be traced on it.

In the N.E. corner of the churchyard, on a tomb, is the following:—

Sacred to the memory of William Saunders, who died March 30th, 1834, aged 58; also Sarah, his wife, who died Jan. 14th, 1876, aged 95. In affectionate remembrance of William Saunders, eldest son of William and Sarah Saunders, who died Jan. 31st, 1883, aged 73 years.

On a narrow stone is the following inscription to an old servant of the Church:

# ¥

In memory of William
Speerit, who died
Oct. 3, 1879, aged 76 years,
having been Clerk of
this Church 53 years.

Near the north door, on plain small stones, may still be read the names of some of the old choir and band.

Robert Jordan, Benj. Jordan, 89, 77, 1846. 1818.

Near a yew tree, on the S. side of the Church, is a raised

stone which marks the first interment in the enlarged (1860) portion of the churchyard.

Ann Willis, died March 21st, 1863, aged 45.

This stone is erected to her memory by Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Loyd-Lindsay.

In the S.E. corner of the churchyard are two large and handsome recumbent monuments of white marble, similar in design. Around the plinth of the first is:—

Sacred to the memory of the Rt. Hon. Samuel Jones Loyd, Baron Overstone, born Sept. 25, 1796, died Nov. 17, 1883, aged 87. The just shall live by faith.

On the second-

Sacred to the memory of Harriet, wife of the Rt. Hon. Samuel Jones Loyd, Baron Overstone, dec. Nov. 6th, 1864, aged 65. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

These monuments were executed from designs by R. Woodyer, R.A.

# THE PARISH REGISTERS.

It was in 1538 that Thomas Cromwell ordered every parish priest to enter into a parchment book all the Christenings, Marriages, and Burials which took place in his parish, under a penalty of 3s. 4d. In the first year of Edward VI. similar injunctions were issued, and also in the reign of Queen Mary, while in 1603 it was ordered that all the then existing registers were to be recopied into parchment books. It is probably from this last date that the first register book of E. Lockinge dates, although it contains the entries from an earlier book, which commenced in 1546. This conclusion we arrive at, from the fact that the entries from 1546 to May, 1634, are in the same handwriting, and,

also, the marriage entries are dated in order from 1554 to 1567, when there occur two entries, dated in 1547, two in 1548, and six in 1552, when they commence again to be dated 1548.

The present Register Books are comprised in 9 volumes, as follows:—

No. 1 contains	Baptisms Marriages Burials	1546 to 1663 1547 to 1662 1546 to 1663
No. 2 contains	Baptisms Marriages Burials	1664 to 1739 1666 to 1738 1663 to 1738
No. 3 contains	Baptisms Marriages Burials	1739 to 1787 1738 to 1787 1739 to 1788
No. 4 contains	Baptisms	1788 to 1813
No. 5 contains	Marriages	1787 to 1812
No. 6 contains	Burials	1788 to 1812

The others are still in use.

All the Books are well preserved. The first, being the oldest is of course the most interesting. It is of parchment leaves, held together by a leathern lace, the outer leaves forming a protective envelope for the whole book. The first entries have been most carefully inscribed, both parallel and marginal lines being drawn in fainter ink to guide the writer, indeed these earliest registrations are perhaps the neatest throughout the series, which present through the course of 300 years every example of penmanship. The worst entries are from the pen of Thomas Upton, Rector here, whose writing often degenerates into a careless scribble.

These first entries appear to have been made by Jacob

Bisley, Curate, as he signs himself on the fly leaf, and who has inscribed on the outer leaf:—

Register of East Lockinge,

1546,

Primo Ed.: 6th.

"The Register booke for ye Parish of East Lockinge of all ye Christennings, Marriges and Burrialls beginninge ye XXth day of Aprill, Ann. Dom. 1546."

Many Parish Registers contain entries of more than the bare mention of the name of the person registered. Below we give extracts from these Books, which, though not of wide interest are perhaps worthy of perusal by the local resident.

Amongst the Baptisms the names of Doe occur in the first year, while as early as "August, 1548, Robert Collins, sonne of John, is mentioned." "1634, William, the sonne of William Love and Dorothy his wife, wanderers in West Lockinge, was by permission, upon entreaty of the parishioners thereof, baptised here March 4th."

Over all the entries of the Baptisms about this date we find the words "by permission" added.

"1642, July 3rd, Richard Donham, sonn of Clement Donham and Zacharia, his wife, a pedlar, was baptised."

"1645, Aug. 16th, Frances, the daughter of Bartholomew Lambourne and Elizabeth, his wife, of West Lockinge, upon earnest request made and because the plague was then in Wanting was baptised."

(A marginal note opposite the above note reads "the first Christenning;" are we to suppose immersion had been practised until this date).

"Nov. 30th, 1645, Edward, the sonn of Wm. Castel and

Martha, his wife, was baptised at Ginge by reason of snowy and very cold weather."

"1661, Francis Keat, sonne of Edward and Cicely, his wife, was Borne, Baptised, and Buried the 3rd day of June."

"1681, William, the sonne of Jane Joyner, a vagrant, who was brought to bed at Betterton, in this parish, was baptised ye ninth of October."

The Rev. John Aldworth, who became Rector about this time, frequently added notes to his entries.

In 1698 he states that "William Edmonds was baptised the 4th of 7ber, as his father told me in 1711, and gave me a good reason for it. I found upon further examination that the said Wm. was baptised, as generally all the children in Lockinge were, upon a Sunday. Whereas the 4th of August, 1698, was upon a Thursday and the 4th of September following was Sunday."

In 1716 he notes "that whereas we have two William Smiths, who each have a Mary to wife, I distinguish them by calling the elder of the two William Smith, of Alabastors," (probably this was a farm name). In 1718 he mentions "Rich. Maskel was forgot to be registered for above a fortnight."

"1723, Sara Mary, the daughter of Sara Lay was (of W. Lock.) baptised the 10th of February."

On the margin John Aldworth gives the following account of Sara:—"West Lockinge overseers bought the ring, which the fellow refused to put on; it was put on by her father. They went first to Wantage to be married but behaved so impudently Mr. Birch, tho' their Minister, refused to joine them. Then they went to Ardington, and she being heavy and behind

asked some neighbours how far old whistling William (so she called him she was going to marrie) was before. He likewise behaved most impudently in Ardington Church, so I looking on this not as true matrimony but a profanation of ye Holy Ordinance registered the child in her name only. When I promised the grandfather, a very good poor man, to Baptise the child I told him I would not church his daughter."

"1723, Sara Edmonds was baptised by Mr. Price, of Ardington, accordinge to the forme of private baptism, the small pox being in the house 10ber 26th, she was admitted by the said Mr. Price into the congregation.

The marriage entries contain nothing of interest.

'Xmas at the Manor House in 1648 was no doubt a merry one for the next day a double wedding was to take place, the Squire's two daughters being the Brides.

"Mr. Joseph Prouse and Mrs. Frances Keate were marryed Dec. 26th, 1648."

"Mr. Francis Hungerford and Mrs. Elizabeth Keate were marryed the same day."

Amongst the monuments described in the Church is one to Ed. Hawker. His connection with Lockinge is shown by the following entry.

"1777, Edmund Hawker, Esq., of the Parish of St. Margaret's Westminster, and Miss Rachel Powles, of this parish, were married April 16th."

The Burials are more in detail. Sometimes the rank and position of the deceased are given, sometimes the cause of death if a violent one. Poverty was very prevalent in those

days judging from the number of beggars, tramps, and poore men who are mentioned, such as—

"John Hooke, a poore man, was buryed ye 11th Aprill, 1557."

"John Lusam, a stranger, was bur. ye VIth day May, 1558."

"John Lurgyshall, a stranger, was buried ye XXth day December, 1558."

Others are entered as old men, as—

"John Smith, an olde man, was bur. ye VIII. day December, 1563."

And others again as young men.

"William Smith, a young man, was bur. 16th Oct., 1576."

"John Baal, an oulde beggar, was bur. ye last day June, 1584."

"Ralpe Wilson, a scholar, was bur. Jan., 1590."

"Feb., 1526, Richard, a poore woman's child, was buried."

(Was he too poor to have a surname?)

"Dec., 1597, a beggar man was buryed from West Lockinge."

"Aprill, 1599, John Doo's servant, goared by a bull, was buryed."

"July, 1599, Ellen Hurd, a servant mayd, was buryed."

In 1603 the Church Porch appears to have afforded the only shelter and refuge to one poor woman as the following extract shows:—

"A beggar woman was delivered of a man child in ye Church Porche on Palme Sunday and was buryed ye VIth day of April, being still borne."

- "Jan., 1619, Robert Wilson, Rector of this Church, was buried May, 1624." Was the Rector no respector of persons? Under this date is entered—
- "Edward Keate (Esq.) was buryed ye VIth day (Lord of the Manor)." Another hand has added the italics.
- "September, 1621, James Gerard, a gent. and scholar, was buried ye 20th day."
- "January, 1628, Mary Needham, gent. mayde, and stranger, was buried ye day."

(Non-residents were described as strangers).

- "27th Aprill, 1629, John Foard, servant to Mr. Francis Keate (met) his death by a fall from a roof was buried," and
- "Thomas Steptoe, coming over ye Downs from Leck-hamstead, dyed by the way and was buried."

The following extracts refer no doubt to the troublesome times of the Civil War.

- "June, 1641, Umfaye Hawkins, a captaine, was buried," and
- "Sept. 1643, John Tandie, a souldier, of Captaine Mainsmany's troope, was buried ye 27th day."

The latter date is significant, seven days before, on the 20th, the first Battle of Newbury had been fought, which compelled the Royalists to retire to Oxford, and we may not unreasonably suppose John Tandie, with some of his comrades in arms, arriving at Lockinge, on the route thither, he himself perhaps wounded and dying here. In 1644 the Royalists were again in the neighbourhood. Lysons states they were quartered for four days in Wantage and the adjoining villages. A field name near the Church is still known as Camp piece, which may be the site of the bivouac on one of these occasions.

F

- "Feb., 1644, Gabriel Rolls, Rector of thys Church, was buried ye Vth day."
- "1649, Mr. Edward Keate, the elder, buryed May 29th."
  He was followed soon after by his brother, who had inherited the Lockinge Estates in 1624.
- "Francis Keate, Esquire, and Lorde of the Manor, was buried June 15th, for whom, given by his sonne, Mr. Edward Keate, a mortuary\* of 40s. to the parson."
- "1651, Mrs. Elenor Rigby buryed here August 28. The parson had a mark for her buryall in the Chancell."

Burials in the chancel appear to have been indiscriminate. In "1655 Katherine, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Aldrige and Mrs. Katherine, his wife, was buried Sep. 24. Received of them for its buryall in the chancel" (what was received is not stated).

- "1657, Mrs. Jane Price, the widdow of Mr. John Price, vicar of Farnborrowe, was bur. Feb. 26th."
- "Feb: 1663, Dr. Page, of the Parsonage of Lockinge, was buried the 19th day." His successor followed just nine years later.
- "Edward Green, Rector of this Parish, was buryed 21st day of February, 1672."
- "1681, Christopher Minshull, Esq., B. and C., of the University of Oxon, was buryed the 24th of June." No mention is made of the cause of his death as recorded on his tomb.
- "1689, Mary, the bastard daughter of Ayry, a vagrant, was buryed the 7th of February."
  - "1697. William Castle, of East Hendred, was buried

<sup>\*</sup>A funeral sermon.

23rd October. John Castle, his son, gave me ten shillings for his being buried in the chancell, out of which I gave the mason a shilling for laying the stones again."

Opposite the above entry is a note to the effect that

- "I have been credibly informed since the buryal of Wm. Castle that a marke was the usual sum given to the Rector for burying in the Chancel. John Aldworth."
- "1705. Martha Castle, widdow, was buryed the 14th Nov. John Castle paid me 10s. for M. Castle being buryed in the Chancell."
- "1715. Frances, the wife of John Castle, of W. Ginge, was carried thence on Friday, the 23rd of March, to be buried at Bensington, in Oxfordshire."
- "1717. Mr. John Castle, of Ginge, was buryed May the 8th, and May 13th Mr. Bowly gave me 10s. for his Uncle Castle being buried in the Chancell. He is to be at the charge of laying the pavement."

Although dissent never appears to have gained a stronghold in the Parish, it had crept in at this early date, as the following entry records:—

"March 16th, 1720. I permitted Eliz. Blagrave to be buried in the churchyard, because she was very desirous of Baptism from me, it Bp. Talbot\* would have allowed me. But Divine Service was not read at her buryal, because she had been sprinkled only, by a Presbyterian teacher and that without any necessity, I being then Resident and my house and Church much nearer to the place of her birth than the Presbyterian Teacher's house and conventicle."

"1756. Thomas Day, Clerk of the Parish, was buryied Dec. 29th."

<sup>\*</sup>Bishop of Salisbury, of which Diocese Lockinge then formed part.



"1785. James Gibbs, a young man, died Jan. 26th, buried the 27th. Killed in hunting."

No exceptional instance of longevity is recorded, but the age of the deceased is not registered until 1813. Still, the following ripe ages speak for the general health of the Parish.

- 1822. Will. Bunce, aged 91 years.
- 1827. Will. Prior, aged 92 years.
- 1829. J. Pulling, aged 92 years.
- 1832. Susanna Phillips, aged 96 years.
- 1836. Mary Emblin, aged 92 years.
- 1855. Betty Steptoe, aged 93 years.
- 1870. Sarah Saunders, aged 95 years.
- 1871. Eliz. Palmer, aged 94 years.
- 1872. Sarah Powell, aged 93 years.
- 1872. Charlotte Godding, aged 93 years.

Amongst the Register Books preserved in the Church chest is a Book of Affidavits of burials in woollen, in accordance with a law made, for the purpose of bolstering up the wool trade of England, which ordered, under a penalty of £5 every corpse to be buried in a woollen shroud. This proceeding appears to have been distasteful to all. The wealthy generally paid the £5 and continued to bury their relatives in linen; the poor probably submitted on account of their inability to pay the fine.

Pope in his poem on Mrs. Oldfield expressed the public opinion, when he wrote—

"Odious! in woollen! t'would a saint provoke,"

<sup>&</sup>quot;1781. William Seymour, a poor cripple, son of Widd. Seymour, was buried."

This Book of Affidavits contains the Act of Charles II., 1678, printed on the first leaf. On the fly leaf is the following:—

"Memorandum, that upon the 14th of April, 1699, I delivered this Booke, with 2 affidavits in it, relating to the year 1698, to W. Hawkins, Overseere of the poore. His wife returned me the Booke the next day. The Justices having forgotten to signe it the affidavits were not returned." Examples of the entries follow.

"1679, March 2nd. Edward Keate, Esq., of this Parish, was buryed. No certificate brought that he was buryed in woollen. but before the eighth day information being made upon oath that he was wrapt up in linen, by Mr. Coxe to Mr. Weeke, one of His Majesty's Commissioners of ye peace, a warrant was granted for levying of ye five pounds, whereof fifty shillings was allowed to the informer, and the other fifty to the poore of this parish, which was payd accordingly."

This Mr. Cox appears to have been a village spy, or he may have been the Parish carpenter and undertaker, for on

"June 24th, 1681. Christopher Minshull was buried," when he again lays information that he too was only wrapt up in linen, and pockets his 50s.

Mrs. A. Wiseman, buried 26th June, 1690, had no certificate brought that she was buried in woollen.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wymondesold's was the next burial which evaded the law and  $\mathcal{L}_5$  was paid.

About this time the gentry of the country often employed as indoor servants, negro slaves. Mr. Wymondesold was one such. He certainly did not value him at £5 dead, whatever he was worth alive.

"Christopher Othello, negro servant of Mr. Wymondesold, was buryed July 23, 1771, in woollen only."

Charles Wymondesold, bur. Aug. 31st, 1776, being buried in linen, the £5 was paid; and also for William Wymondesold, Esq., bur. April 29, 1779.

The last instance of the law being enforced is as late as 1782, when the £5 was paid at the burial of Edmund Hawker, Esq., of Ginge, who was buried 25th June, 1782.

The clergy, in Lockinge at least, were buried according to the Act, either as an example to their flock of obedience to the law, or to show their indifference to things carnal.

"Thomas Upton was buried in woollen, Oct. 13th, 1684."
"Mr. John Aldworth was buried in woollen, July 26th, 1729."

No peculiarity in Christian names, which the Puritan element introduced in many places, occur, except we mention Judith, which is registered in 1649. Indeed their influence appears to have hardly affected Lockinge, for though the Sacrament of Baptism was forbidden, the birth instead to be entered, we still find that the christenings were registered as if nothing had happened.

### CHURCHWARDEN'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

The Churchwarden's book at present in use only dates back to 1852. The previous one on being filled up most probably passed into private hands, consequently we obtain none of those "items" so interesting in these early account books.

1852.

This year is late enough to contain a reference to the old

practice of placing a price on the heads of sparrows, when the "Ginge sparrow bill for 1850 was paid," amounting to 5s. 10½d. Generally the year's expenses is comprised of

Cheney's (Speerut's) wages ... £5 os. od.

Coal and wine, and a subscription of £2 2s., which is paid regularly until 1888 to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. This last was paid no doubt through the exertion of the Rector, as Warden of All Souls.

This first year also informs us of the cost of the second bell.

"Mr. Taylor's bill for recasting one bell and repairing the others, £34 os. od."

### 1854.

"Levelling Churchyard and building wall, £35 6s. od." To the above the Warden subscribed £25.

# 1857.

"Making road to Church, £2 2s. 6d."

Slaughtering sparrows was not the outside channel alone to which Church rates went. This same year is a

"Subscription for repairing the Wantage Fire Engine, £2 os. od."

# 1858.

"Table of Affinity... ... 0 5 0."

Bill for a new Surplice ... 2 0 0."

1860.

"A new Bible and Prayer (book?) was granted for the service of the Church."

1862.

"Paid the Rev. Leighton for a Church Service, £5 3s. od."

### 1867.

"Cleaning snow from off the Church, Lo 6s. 5d."

Until 1868 the G.W. Railway was rated for 18 chains of railway, valued at £800 per mile—£162, and the Wilts and Berks Canal at £1 178. 6d., and also the Telegraph Company, but taking advantage of Mr. Gladstone's abolition of compulsory Church Rates in this year, they, one and all, with some of the Parishioners, refused to pay after this date.

1879.		
	£ s.	d.
Set of Bell Ropes	2 10	0
Mending Roof of Church	0 12	6
1893.		
	£ s.	d.
Repairing Bells	0 5	0

The amount of Rate varies from 3d. to 6d.; generally the former. The Visitation expenses have fallen from £3 10s. od, in 1852 to 14s. 6d. in 1890.

#### THE RECTORY.

The Living is a Rectory, now held by the Rev. J. G. Cornish, M.A. From early times it was attached to the Manor and held under the Abbots of Abingdon Abbey until the Dissolution. It was then with the lands of the Parish granted to John Wynchcombe. In 1630 it was in the possession of Gabriel Rolls, the then Incumbent, off whom on June 5th, 1632, it was agreed to purchase the advowson by All Souls' College, Oxford, at three years' purchase, it then being valued at £180 per annum. From that time it was held by Fellows of that College. In 1764 a

special Act of Parliament was obtained annexing the Rectory as inseparable from the Wardenship of All Souls. Towards the expenses of this Act Dr. Niblett gave £500, he being at that time Rector and Warden. The object of this probably was to make a sinecure of the Rectory and must have been in direct opposition to the benefit of the Parish, for in those days the evils of plurality of Livings were rife, and the lesser preferments were often neglected for the higher ones. For upwards of a century the Rectors held the Living "in absentia," frequently leaving the "Cure" of the village to the charge of a curate. During the Wardenship of the Rev. F. K. Leighton, however, the gift and advowson was again sold, and it is now in the gift of Lord Wantage.

	£	s.	d.	
In 1291 the Living was valued at .	11	6	8	
At the Dissolution it was valued	31	10	0	
In 1742 its estimated value pe	er			
annum was	150	0	0	
In 1831 the gross income was	549	0	0	
In 1840 the tithes were commuted				
for	520	0	0	
The Living is now valued at	. 330	0	o nett.	

### LIST OF RECTORS.

The following List of Rectors, with Notes, is taken from the Registers. A list from the early times no doubt exists among the Bishops' Registers at Salisbury.

- 1585. Jacob Bisley signes as Curate.
- 1619. Robert Wilson, Rector, died Jan. —, bur. at Lockinge.
- 1644. Gabriel Rolls, Rector, died; bur. at Lockinge, 5th Feb.

Feb. 20, 1644. John Watkins was inducted but only held it two years.

Jan. 9th, 1646. The Living was offered to one Dayrell, on the death of Watkins but he refused to accept. His reason for this was probably due to the fact that in 1645 the use of the Book of Common Prayer had been forbidden, the Parliamentary Directory to be used in its stead. Dayrell was too conscientious a Churchman to accept on these terms and so

Jan. 26th, 1646. William Page was inducted and held it until his death, 19th Feb. 1663. He was buried at Lockinge. No monument exists to his memory or to his predecessors. A note says he was learned in the Greek Fathers and possessed great force in disputations.

March 2nd, 1663. Edward Green, Rector, died at Lockinge, bur. there Feb. 21st, 1672. Thomas Upton succeeded Ed. Green. He was descended from a Devonshire family, elected Fellow of All Souls in 1653, the same year with Sir Christopher Wren. He appears to have had interest in property in London. Amongst a list of books offered by a second-hand book dealer lately was "A deed, between Thomas Upton, of Lockinge, clerke, and Dorothy, his wife, and John Colebrook, citizen and merchant of London, relating to houses and land in Fireball Court, in Houndsditch, with signatures of Thomas and Dorothy Upton." Thomas Upton died, and was buried in Lockinge Church, Oct. 13, 1684.

John Aldworth, instituted Oct. 11, 1684. He was a benefactor to the Parish, leaving £6 yearly to be divided amongst the deserving poor, £2 to the Parish Clerk, and

legacies to those Parishioners who had attended the Church Services on Wednesdays and Fridays (an unusual occurrence for clergy to conduct in those days). He gave the Church Bible, which continued in use until 1825. His private memorandum, containing every item, carefully entered, is still preserved at the Rectory. He died July 29, 1729.

Doctor Stephen Niblett, Rector, Sept. 5th, 1729. Elected Warden of All Souls' College, 1764, in which year the Living and Wardenship were joined. He died June 1st, 1766.

Hon. and Rev. Dr. John Tracy, succeeded Warden Niblett. Late in life, 12 Aug. 1792, he succeeded his half brother as Viscount Tracy, in the Peerage of Ireland. He died at Bath, Feb. 2nd, 1793, in his 71st year. His lord-ship's very benevolent disposition and integrity of heart had engaged him the esteem and affection of all who knew him, and particularly the society in which he so long presided. In some of the public papers he has been called John Leigh. His elder brother took the name of Leigh, but the Warden never did. It has been said in others that he left a considerable legacy to his nephew, the Rev. Mr. Hemus, but he had no relation of that name. He left his brother, who succeeded him in the title, his executor, and his sister, the Hon. Mrs. Frances Tracy, residuary legatee. He left £500 to his college, and a year's wages to his servants, in advance.

Dr. Isham, the next Warden and Rector, was the nephew of Sir. J. Isham, of Lamport, in Northamptonshire, and his brother, Justinian, succeeded to the title and estate. His father was Rector of Lincoln College. His mother was the daughter of the Master of Pembroke College. He died June 10th, 1817, aged 74 years.

Hon. and Rev. Ed. Legge, D.C.L., instituted to the Wardenship and Rectory, Aug. 8, 1817. He was the seventh son of the Earl of Dartmouth, consecrated Bishop of Oxford in 1816. In earlier life he had been Rector of Witney, Prebend of Canterbury, and afterwards Dean of Windsor. The Bishop died at the age of 60, 21st Jan. 1827, in his house at All Souls', and was buried in the Chapel there, where a monument was erected to his memory by his brother and heir, the Hon. Aug. Legge, Chancellor of Winchester.

Rev. Lewis Sneyd, A.M., Warden and Rector of Lockinge, Chaplain to the Earl of Plymouth. His father, Rev. Ralph Sneyd, L.L.B. (formerly Fellow of All Souls', then Rector of Yeanton, Vicar of West Ham, in Sussex, Precentor of St. Asaph, and Domestic Chaplain to George IV., when Prince of Wales), was the second son of Ralph Sneyd, Esq., of Keel Hall, a wealthy family, who still retain that seat in Staffordshire, by Barbara, his wife, sister of the Right Hon. William, 1st Lord Bagot, of Blithfield, and second daughter of Sir John Moore, Bart., Knight of the Bath and Admiral of the Red, grandson of the Right Hon. Charles Moore, Earl of Drogheda, by Jane, daughter of Arthur, Viscount Ely. He gave the great Bible to Lockinge Church in 1828. He died at his lodgings in All Souls' College, 1858, and was buried in the College Chapel, where a window is placed at the west end to his memory. He left £500 to the school at Lockinge. His name is yet esteemed in the village by those Parishioners who remember him. Throughout the 31 years he held the Rectory he made it his duty to reside, a certain portion of each year, in the parish.

Rev. Francis Knyvett Leighton, S.T.P., Warden and Rector, 1858-1881. He had previously held the Living of Harpsden with Bolney, in Oxfordshire, for 19 years, worth £637 per annum. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University from October, 1866, to October, 1870, and a Canon of Westminster until his death, which took place at All Souls' College, 13th Oct., 1881. He was buried in the Chapel, where a window is placed to his memory. In his time, 1873, the advowson of Lockinge was severed from the Wardenship and sold by the College. The Alms Dish in use at Lockinge Church was presented by his widow.

Rev. William Alston Cole, M.A. Instituted by Lord Wantage as Patron, 1881. Since 1870 he had been Curate at Lockinge, under the previous Rector. He resigned the Living in 1891.

Richard Percival Durnford, M.A. Instituted 1891. Resigned 1894.

Rev. J. G. Cornish, M.A., was presented to the Living by Lord Wantage. Previously he had been Curate of Faringdon, Berks.

### LIST OF CURATES.

	Name.		Year	of Entering.
I.	Thomas White	•••	•••	1747
2.	John Hemus			1774
3.	Henry Todd		•••	1788
4.	Robert Puzey	•••	•••	1790
5.	Joseph Ingram		•••	1791
6.	John Collins		•••	1793
7.	C. K. Williams	•••	•••	1826
8.	W. Hayward	•••	•••	1826
9.	Robt, Hawthorn	ı	•••	1832

10.	Thos. Cottle	•••	1837	
11.	J. F. Collins	•••	1846	
I 2.	T. H. Clarke	•••	1861	
13.	J. Stewart	•••	1863	
14.	E. Norman	•••	1866	
15.	Beauchamp Tyrwhitt	•••	1867	
16.	Thos. R. Finch	•••	1869	
17.	Hen. Day French	•••	1869	
ı 8.	Will, Alston Cole		1870	

The Rectory House in former times stood near the N.W. of the Church and within a few yards of the west end of the Manor House. It was pulled down and rebuilt quite at the extremity of the village by Sarah, widow of Mr. Wymondsold, previous to her remarriage to Mr. Bastard, during the Wardenship of Dr. Tracy. It has since been enlarged by Warden Leighton.

#### CHAPTER VI.

# ANTIQUITIES OF THE PARISH.

THE Parish has no remarkable antiquities to record. In point of age first mention must be made of the fossil remains of a gigantic Icthyosaurus, unearthed when digging foundations for an addition to the Mansion between 30 and 40 years ago. These were examined on the spot by Sir Roderick Murchison and were received by the Geological Museum in Jermyn Street, where they can be seen.

The occasional findings of Roman coins are not to be taken as evidence of actual occupation by that people, as they may have been carried from elsewhere and dropped here. One copper Roman coin found in the Parish and in possession of the writer is interesting as bearing on the reverse a sacred monogram, such coins having been struck for the use of the early Christians in Britain. Another coin found here is a small copper one, bearing on the obverse the rude representation of a bird, the reverse plain. This one also in the writer's possession, has been identified as a Gaulish coin sometimes found in this country, and dating back as early as 50 B.C.

In the Devil's Dyke on Lockinge Down, on the spot where the new covered yard now stands, was found in 1898

a "Roman Fibula" of bronze, of fine workmanship and in perfect preservation. Similar fibulæ are in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

In 1891, when working on the banks of the stream near the Mansion, the workmen discovered a skeleton in a crouching position, some seven feet under ground. The following ornaments were found with it:—A plain ring of gold or copper broken into three pieces, two circular links or brooches 1½ inches in diameter, with remains of pins and a blue glass bead, with eight grooved indentations cut in it. This was supposed to have been a Saxon interment.

Near the village, on an eminence known as Arn Hill, seventy skeletons were discovered some thirty years ago, together with knives and spear heads. This site was declared by Mr. Warde Norman and Mr. Clutterbuck, Rector of Wittenham, who examined them at the time, to be the burial ground of the old Anglo-Saxon village. A MS. description of this discovery, written by Mr. Norman is in the possession of Lord Wantage. The Place name of a strip of land in the immediate vicinity, on the west side, has survived all these generations, being still known as Lynches, the Saxon name for "Place of the Dead."

Directly further to the south of Arn Hill is, or rather was, a Barrow, now erased by the plough, but still known as Barrel (a corruption of Barrow) Hill, the soil in which is said by the agriculturist to be darker and richer than the surrounding soil.

The village was entirely restored and partially rebuilt about 1860, on a new site, on model lines, together with a commodious school and school house, erected in 1861. The whole of these improvements being carried out

by Lord Wantage, then Col. Loyd-Lindsay. The old houses that stood near the Church were removed, but at the entrance to the village two or three old examples of the original dwellings remain, with their picturesque timber work and thatched roofs. One cottage has the initials and date, 16[ESE]99 carved in the wood work of the chimney piece.

"Under a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands,"
and has stood for more than 100 years.

Opposite are two Scotch fir trees, the solitary specimens of their species in the Parish.

The old village Pound, for the reception of strayed cattle, stood where is now the schoolhouse lawn. We read in the Par. Reg. that "Sep. 23rd, 1643, the daughter of John Neville, by the Pound, and Joan, his wife, was baptised."

The Stocks occupied a site on the roadside nearer the Church and old village. Although no occupant of them in this village is remembered, to a Lockinge man belongs the discredit of being the last prisoner in the Stocks at the adjoining village of Ardington. Old inhabitants remember him being arrested one winter's morning and taken there to undergo a sentence of twelve hours' imprisonment in the stocks for being drunk and disorderly.

The last Parish Constable was James Hurst, the village blacksmith, whose successor still preserves the Staff and Handcuffs; the former is about 18 inches long, with the royal arms emblazoned upon it, between the initials G. IV.; beneath, the name Lockings.

Then there was the Parish Beadle, too, still remembered by the oldest amongst us, with his three cornered hat, gold laced coat, and staff of office, the terror not only of the tramps and vagabonds, whom it was his duty to drive out of the village, but also of the children, which fear has perhaps been the chief means of impressing upon their memories this official of a bye-gone day.

No manufactures are carried on, the Parish being now, as always, purely agricultural. At the extremity of the Parish, above the Ridgeway, clay crops out above the chalk, and has been dug for making bricks. Lockinge Kiln is mentioned in a MS. in the British Museum, of a list of Place names in Berks, collected about the beginning of this century. The ground surrounding the kiln is full of shallow excavations from which the clay was worked, but it has been disused now for many years.

A mile above the village the limestone is quarried and burnt for building purposes on the estate. Similarly, near Lockinge Clump the green sand, which here obtains a perfect colour, is also excavated.

# OLD CUSTOMS.

Of the ancient customs which once existed in all of our villages scarcely any now remain.

The village Feast, which took place on Whit-Monday, probably the day of the Dedication of the Parish Church, is remembered in name only. The last vestige of it was a village dance in the Barn. Some years ago, during Feast week it was possible, for any inhabitant who chose to do so, to brew and sell ale, by hanging over the door a bough of a tree, whence it was known as "The Bough House," but fresh laws and stricter supervision has put a stop to what must have been an incentive to drunkenness. Illicit brewing was extensively carried on according to the admissions

of the old folk, and the Church Tower is said by one of them to have been desecrated to the use of a hiding place for their unlawful possession of malt and hops, when the Excise Officer was expected on his visiting rounds.

May Day does not appear to have been recognised for many years, neither have we any tradition of a May Pole. Perhaps the Puritans destroyed the last one.

The Parish Bounds have not been "beaten" within living memory. The Christmas Mummers have disappeared too, although this was the last of the old customs to die out. The dialogue here given was taken down at their last performance, about 1880. It is very similar to that used in other parts of the West of England.

On permission at any house being granted,

Enter King George: "Make room, make room, I do presume. Please to give me leave and room to rhyme, for I've come this merry, merry 'Xmas time. I'll show you a gallant act, activity of youth, activity of age, such as was never acted on a merry Andrew stage. I am King George, a noble knight. I lost my blood by a Turkish fight, by a Turkish fight it is the reason which makes me carry this very weapon. Walk in my eldest son."

Enter second man:

"Here comes I as bold as thee,
And with my sword I'll try with thee.
I'll cut thee, I'll hew thee as small as flies,
And send thee to the cook shop to make mince pies.
Mince pies hot, mince pies cold,
Let thee and I fight very bold,
To battle! to battle! betwixt thee and I,
To see which on the ground shall lie."

They fight, King George falls. The victor calls—
"Doctor, doctor, play thy part,
King George is wounded in his heart.
Five pounds I freely would lay down,
If that noble doctor could be found
To cure this man that's on the ground."

Enter Mary Tinker.

"He's just a coming, sir."

Enter Doctor.

"See, sir, comes this noble doctor. Here's the man that travels much for the good of his country, don't go over the country like William Norman Krapper did and they other she-shaw quack doctors, kills all and cures none. I've a box of pills, cures all ills, the itch, the stitch, the palsy or the gout, pains within and pains without, mully-grubs, squally grubs, tight looseness on the chest, wind in the knee, and many other things which I shall not be able to mention to-night, or any other night. Take one of my pills, and try it, and if this don't cure that man, never believe me any more. Rise up King George and fight again."

King George rises. Doctor calls, "Come in Jack Winny."

Enter J. W.:

"Where's the scoundrel that calls me Jack Winney? I am a man of fame, comes from Thame.

I can do as much as thou or any other man again."

Doctor: "What then canst thou do?"

J. W.: "I can cure the jackdaw with the toothache, or magpie with the headache."

Doctor: "How canst thou do that?"

J. W.: "Cut their heads off and throw their bodies in the ditch."

Doctor: "That's a safe cure; safe cure."

"Come in Mary Tinker, ale and wine, and strong beer drinker."

M. T.: "I'll tell the landlord to his face, his chimney corner was the place, where I sat and blacked my face, when Jones' ale was new, when Jones' ale was new, my boys, when Jones' ale was new.

To atone for the abrupt termination of the dramatic pertormance the entertainment was lengthened out by introducing the popular songs of the day.

Of the Families still resident in the Parish, the names of the following remain, which are met with in an early period of the Registers.

The surname Hermon is recorded as early as 1556. Smith in 1558, Day in 1633, Newman in 1635.

Other names of families long resident in the County also occur; amongst others are those of Tramplett, Blagrave, Mascal, Steptoe, &c.

One name, that of Snoshill, met with about 1700, deserves notice, owing to their relationship with the great Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the Bodleian Library. Amongst the Rawlinson MS. preserved in the Library occurs the following:—

"Petition for relief from the grand nephew and niece of Sir Thomas Bodley, to the Worshipful Mr. Vice Chancellor and to all heads and governors of Colleges and Halls within the famous University of Oxon: "The humble petition of William Snoshill, of East Lockinge, in the County of Berks, labourer, and of Jane, the wife of Thomas Hatton, of Childrey, in the County aforesaid, labourer, sister of the aforesaid William Snoshill,

" Humbly sheweth,

"That your petitioners being the grandchildren of the sister of Sir Thomas Bodley, the munificent founder of the Bodleian Library in your University, being now reduced to a poor and low estate, with all humility make bold to represent their distrest condition to your consideration, hoping that out of your tender pity and commiseration and that regard you have for the pious memory of so great a benefactor to your University, to whom your poor Petitioners are so nearly allied, you will be pleased to consider them as real objects of your charity and compassion, and thereby you will lay an eternal obligation on them of praying for your present and future happiness.

William Snoshill, Jane Hatton."

We, whose names are subscribed to this petition, are well satisfied of the truth thereof.

Thomas Davis, Rector of Childrey, John Holmes, John Bell, Vicar of Sparsholt, John Aldworth, Rector of East Lockinge, Ralph Redin, M.A., vicar of Denchworth.

The Curators gave the Petitioners the sum of £4 out of Sir Thomas Bodley's chest. Doctor Altham, Hebrew professor, and Dr. Hudson, library keeper, gave, each of them, ten shillings.

Another family, the Nevilles, were farmers in East Lockinge about 1700. Their name is still retained in a farm in the hamlet of West Lockinge, adjoining Pinmarsh.

### CHAPTER VII.

### THE CEMETERY.

THE congested condition of the Village Churchyard may be imagined when we find no less than 1,500 interments are recorded in the Parish Registers. To this number must be added those buried for 500 years previous to 1546, and this too in a much smaller area than the present churchyard, it having been considerably enlarged about 1860.

This overcrowding of the dead was obviated in 1886, when Lord Wantage gave a piece of ground for a cemetery and also erected on it a chapel for the service of the burial of the dead and in which also occasional services are held. It was dedicated to "All Souls" (from the long connexion of the College of that name with the Parish Church) by the Bishop of Oxford, who performed the Consecration Service.

## CHAPTER VIII.

# PLACE NAMES OF THE PARISH.

THE Field and Place names of Parishes are often of great antiquity. Following is a list still in use in this Parish:—

Reaching far back into the past, the origin of which is still an unsolved problem, is the Trench below the Ridgeway, on the north side, still plainly to be traced across the Parish, and which appears at intervals in many of the Down land districts. Here it is known as the Devil's Dyke, being traditionally attributed to the Evil One.

Germans and Lynches have been mentioned; other names are all that now remain of once resident families, as Collins' Lower Field, Goddards' Corner, Collins' Long Copse, and Absoloms'. This latter was a village family at the commencement of this century. The Tubbs were resident in the Parish upwards of 200 years ago and have left their trace in Tubb's Lane. Other names are derived from their position, such as Long Lands, Cemetery Piece, Betterton Cottages (the local name is worth recording—Black Snail), Droveway Piece, Farnboro' Bottom, Mill Piece, and Lime Kiln Piece, and Sand Pit Piece. Of the remaining names, Peaked Stone is the Saxon for corner, and this place still retains its original shape. Ash Tree Piece, Chalk Hill, Middle Hill and Crab Hedge, describe themselves, as does

also Bowling Alley, so called from its levelness, while Tough Lands is still said to retain its difficulty in ploughing. Green Binch recalls the old name for Hedge.

A copse at the top of Betterton Road is the site where a small market was formerly held, for exchange of butter and other produce of the Vale, for copse wood and other products from the Down lands. The only trace of it now is the Place name, viz., the Butter Bushes.

The derivation of others is not so easy to trace, such as Droveway Hill, Mead Platt, Rook's Downs, Acre Ditch, Norfolk Hill, Kitchen Piece, Roundabout Hill, Arn Hill, Runaway Hill, Cannon Hill, the Nores, Bittum, Barton, the present Rectory, Ireland, Starveacre, and the Jew's Harp.

The Crooks, Balehams or Barehams, Trundle Hill, Chalk Furlong, and Sheep Lands are mentioned in the "Act for Enclosing Land in Lockinge" in 1808, when Kitford was added to this Parish. This last name may be derived from a corruption of Keat, the old Manorial Lords.

### CHAPTER IX.

## SPRINGS AND WELLS.

FROM its position, lying under the Downs, Lockinge is well supplied with water, which filters from the highlands. No less than four brooks, two of them it is true, very small, rise in or run through parts of the Parish. Three of these rejoice in a name, but the largest one, curiously enough, has none.

In the hamlet of Ginge one spring rises, and flowing as Ginge Brook through a narrow ravine, past West Hendred Church, &c., empties itself into the Thames at Sutton Courtney. In its upper course it was formerly an ancient mill stream.

Under the farm of East Betterton, at the foot of an abrupt declivity rises another stream. Flowing westward, it is joined from both sides by numerous springs. One limpid spring with its hollowed out basin, forms an ideal wishing or dipping well, such as in ancient times was dedicated to some Saint, and which has probably been used for generations by the inmates of the farmstead opposite. This stream, with its thickly wooded slopes, forms perhaps the most picturesque glen in the county. Its banks are planted with choice water plants, ferns and shrubs, and are ornamented by rockwork, forming a picturesque feature of the Lockinge pleasure grounds. After passing East Better-

ton it flows past the ancient Manor House of West Betterton, where it is joined by another considerable spring, which has in its ages of flow worn out like its receiver a gorge of considerable depth. Near the Parish Church it flows on, a shallow brooklet, and through a culvert enters a wider expanse, which forms the Lake in Lockinge Park. When near the Rectory House its course is again greatly narrowed, and its tortuous windings have given rise to the place name of "The Crooks." It now enters Ardington Parish, and joins with the Ginge brook mentioned above, at Hendred.

Another spring which rises under the Down land on the edge of the Parish, and is known as Goddard Brook, flows north, and forms for some distance the boundary of Lockinge on the west side, after which it flows through the hamlet of West Lockinge, and crossing this Parish at the rear of the Rectory, enters the last mentioned stream at the boundary of Ardington Parish. Though distinguished by the name of Brook its supply is entirely dependent on the seasons. Thus, in 1871, which was said to be the driest year remembered by the oldest inhabitant, it never flowed at all, whilst in 1879, which was equally the wettest, it ran all the year.

As a general rule its flow begins about Michaelmas. The other brooklet, known as "Portobello Brook," rises in Grove Parish, and after flowing under the Wilts and Berks Canal, crosses Lockinge at the narrowest part of the Parish. Near the Canal, under which it again flows, after entering Ardington Parish, its course for a furlong or so marks the boundary between these two Parishes.

The village itself is amply supplied with water from wells

sunk through the chalk to depths varying from 60 to 100 feet. They have never yet been known to fail in their supply. At the elevated extremity of the Parish they have necessarily had to sink deeper, and the well at Lockinge Kiln is said to reach a depth of 325 feet.

# CHAPTER X.

## ROADS.

No less than three ancient roads traverse the Parish.

I. The Icknield Road. This, the oldest perhaps of all British roads, the well known Ridgeway, follows the summit of the Downs. Its course here is well defined. Though generally called a Roman road, one authority a few years ago gave as his opinion that it had been used as a public road long before the Romans came to Britain, when the vale beneath was untrodden by those early tribes, whose strongholds still exist on the course of this highway and which are known now as Letcombe, Uffington, Liddington, and Barbary Castles. This road continued until comparatively recent times a thoroughfare from the west of the country to the London district.

When the Lowlands became cleared and these early settlers descended into them they made another trackway below, running parallel to the old one.

This, the Ickleton Way, ran almost through the centre of the village of Lockinge. At the end of last century Mr. Church, the Surveyor of Wantage, traced it "across Wantage east field, where it was then ploughed up, till it entered Charlton Parish, after which it passed through West Lockinge. It was lost across Mr. Bastard's Park, but appeared again from that park to Ginge Brook and so

on to Hendred." It actually crossed the village, passed through what is now the Lake in Lockinge Park, where traces of a stone causeway, probably a ford, were found some thirty years ago, and going in an easterly direction, crossed the hill directly in front of it, but on the north side. Here, if anywhere, existed a settlement in pre-Roman times. When that nation came they found the inhabitants as a rule occupying small hill forts, stockaded, near their clearings, into which they could retire for safety. Though no remains of this early date have been found here, it is easily accounted for by the fact that these inhabitants possessed nothing but perishable articles. Though, to the antiquary the summit of this eminence presents traces of a ditch or vallum, these marks are comparatively recent; the space on which a lofty flagstaff is now reared was, until about fifty years ago occupied by a summer-house, doubtless of the same date as the grotto below.

Upon this commanding position are placed two small Russian guns, measuring 2 feet in length and 2½ inches bore. The granite blocks on which they stand came from Sebastopol, the small wall pieces themselves came from Simpheropol, where they formed part of the Tartar fortification. They were brought back by Lord Wantage, at the close of the Crimean War.

The other road, the Portway, was the one on which all the traffic east and west was carried. Along it ran the stage coaches, and along it crawled the goods wains. The former started from the King Alfred's Head Hotel, Wantage, at eight in the morning, arriving in London the same evening. The fare for an inside passenger was a guinea, which we may imagine troubled the majority of villagers but little.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins, of Betterton, are still remembered, waiting at Lockinge Clump for the coach to come by to pick them up, and they appear to have been the only people in the village who travelled.

With the roads we include other ways of communication. In 1795 the first Act was obtained, and before 1814 the Berks and Wilts Canal was opened through at a cost of  $\pounds_{461,000}$ . This may have benefitted the inhabitants to a small extent, in reducing the price of commodities which came from a distance.

With the mention of the last great change we bring these notes to a close. This is the advent of the Great Western Railway, in 1840. Its main line enters Lockinge Parish shortly after crossing the Canal by an iron bridge, leaving it again before reaching Wantage Road Station, where the would be traveller is placed in direct communication with the whole world. It was in June, 1840, that the railway was opened through as far as Steventon. That village, the first Sunday after the event, presented the appearance of a fair. All the surrounding villagers (Lockinge included) flocked to see the "steamer," as it made its trip, gaily decorated with flags and accompanied by a band of music. Those still alive in this Parish who were present on this occasion still retain the liveliest recollections of the event, not even forgetting the name of the engine driver of the train, J. Hammond. Mr. Hammond, however, was something more than a driver, being resident engineer and superintendent of the Reading division of the G.W.R, which then terminated at Steventon.

## CHAPTER XI.

#### CHARITIES.

THE Charities of Lockinge are few and unimportant.
Warden Sneyd left £15 yearly towards the support of the Village School.

The Rev. J. Aldworth, Rector, left £6 to the deserving poor, and £2 towards the stipend of the Parish Clerk, annually.

There is Poor's Land, amounting to seven acres, which is laid out in allotments.\*

### CHAPTER XII.

THE following Returns of the Parish have been made at different dates.

According to a Religious Census of the County taken in 1676 the number of inhabitants in Lockinge was 180, all of whom are returned as belonging to the Established Church.

In 1801.

Population. Inhab. Houses. Uninhab. Families.

**245** 57 **2** 59

In 1831. 343 inhabitants and 3,650 acres.

In 1837. Including the tythings of Betterton and Ginge the Parish contained 73 houses and 342 inhabitants. Annual value, £3,053.

In 1881. 2,822 acres. 330 inhabitants. £3,471 rateable value.

In 1891. The population was 261, exclusive of the hamlet of Ginge.

THE END.

<sup>\*</sup>Kelly's Directory.

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